

### Grammar Explanation

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#### Correct word order in sentences (basic rules)

- In English, most sentences follow this order:  
Subject → Verb Phrase → Complement (the word or phrase after the verb).
  - Example: *Many students → work → in part time jobs.*
- The subject of the sentence must always be a noun (e.g., *students*), a noun phrase (e.g., *many students who attend CUNY*), or a pronoun (e.g., *they*), not a prepositional phrase.
  - Incorrect: ***In the fall*** will be held the election.
  - Corrected: *In the fall*, ***the election*** will be held.  
OR ***The election*** will be held *in the fall*.
- Many verb phrases must include a helping verb before the main verb.
  - Incorrect: *The candidates **debating** several issues.*
  - Corrected: *The candidates **are debating** several issues.*

(For additional information on helping verbs, see **Verb Forms: Exercise 1: Correcting verb phrases with a missing verb.**)

- In direct questions, a verb needs to come before the subject except when the subject is the question word or phrase. (e.g., ***Who won yesterday?***).
  - Incorrect: *Which debate **she won?***
  - Corrected: *Which debate **did she win?***
- In indirect questions (where the question word is in the middle of the sentence), place the subject immediately after the question word.
  - Incorrect: *The investigators did not discover **why did the disaster occur.***
  - Corrected: *The investigators did not discover **why the disaster occurred.***

Excerpted from: Sentence Structure: Exercise 1