

## Basic Sentence Patterns

Review: *What kinds of words are there in English?*

**verbs** (go, run, buy, walk, be, think, feel, taste, choose, leave, call)  
**nouns** (apple, milk, herd, justice, fairness, temperance, moderation, Bali, Jim)  
**pronouns** (I, we, you, he, she, it, they, me, us, him, her, them, my, our, that, which, who)  
**adjectives** (smart, quick, helpful, precise, believable, good, minor, magnificent)  
**adverbs** (well, badly, abroad, precisely, minutely, thoughtfully, often, rarely)  
**prepositions** (aboard, about, against, after, amid, among, around, but, by, in, under, off)  
**articles** (a, an, the)

We abbreviate these: **v, n, prn, adj, adv, prep** (no abbreviation for “article”)

Question: *Can one word ever “act like” another kind of word?*

Yes. There are several ways that **English words can change from one “part of speech” to another**. Usually, this just means that some words have been left out, or that one word is used for a whole phrase.

Example: I’m going to wall up that old doorway. (I will build a wall that covers it.)

*The noun “wall” becomes a verb meaning “to build a wall”*

*The preposition “up” becomes a particle with the verb “wall”*

“wall up” = to build a wall which covers or fills something

“wall in” = to build a wall which keeps something inside

“wall out” = to build a wall which keeps something outside

“wall off” = to build a wall which separates one part from

others

But by now, you know many of these. You won’t be confused very often (dictionaries help).

OK, so—**SENTENCE PATTERNS:**

Every sentence has a Subject part and a Predicate (verb) part.

**In the Subject part:**

S = simple Subject (n)

**In the Predicate part:**

V = main Verb (v)

DO = Direct Object (n)

IO = Indirect Object (n)

SC = Subject Complement (2 kinds: PN and PA)

PN = Predicate Noun (n)

PA = Predicate Adjective (adj)

OC = Object Complement (n or adj)

**There are 5 basic sentence patterns in English:**

<b>S – Vi</b>	I run every day.	I eat often.	I party at night.
<b>S – Vt – DO</b>	Joe kicked the ball.	Susan carried the desk into her office today.	
<b>S – Vt – IO – DO</b>	My friend bought me a very strange gift.	Jennifer brings me joy.	
<b>S – LV – SC (2 kinds)</b>	Aslan is the King of Narnia.	<b>(S – LV – PN)</b>	
	Your forehead feels hot.	<b>(S – LV – PA)</b>	
<b>S – Vt – DO – OC (rare*)</b>	The class elected Amy president.	He left the door open.	

\* A few examples of this kind of sentence are very common, like those with “leave”; you can always say them another way, though: “He left the door open” = “He didn’t close the door.”

**Question: What are Vi, Vt, and LV?**

Vi and Vt are <b>action verbs</b> . They answer the question, “What did [Subject] <u>do</u> ?”	
<b>Vi = <u>intransitive verb</u>.</b>	The action can be done without an object. For example, I can <u>walk</u> alone.
<b>Vt = <u>transitive verb</u>.</b>	The action must be done to an object. For example, I cannot <u>throw</u> alone.
<b>Examples:</b>	Jane threw . . . (What? What did she throw?) . . . the ball. (DO)
	John walked . . . (Oh, OK, he walked.) . . . <u>in</u> the park. (where?)
	Jeff walked . . . (Oh, OK, he walked.) . . . the dog. (oh! it’s a DO) *
“threw” is <i>always</i> transitive (Vt).	
“walked” is <i>usually</i> intransitive (Vi), but it can “act like” a transitive verb (Vt) when it has an object. There are just a few of these, and they are very common verbs, mostly about <u>moving your body</u> . (You can always say them another way: “Jeff walked the dog” = “Jeff took the dog for a walk.”)	
* If you see a noun after an <b>action verb</b> , it must either <b>have a preposition</b> or <b>be an object</b> .	

**Question: Wait! You didn’t tell me about LV!**

Here’s a list of <b>linking verbs</b> (“to be” verbs + verbs of <b>sensing, seeming, becoming</b> ):	
am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been, seems, appears, feels, looks, tastes, smells, sounds, becomes, grows, proves, remains, stays	( <i>memorize them!</i> )
I will explain more about <b>linking verbs</b> , later.	