



Satzstellung

learning target

Aim of this topic is to explain how to arrange the different parts of a sentence in the correct order.

I must admit it took quite a long time to handle this topic and find some convenient rules.

If you read some articles from other authors you might think word order in German requires an own scientific research area.

To make it understandable I had to simplify it and concentrate on the most important elements.

So I'll give you a "strict" word order you should use for the first time.

You can change this when you got a feeling for the language to emphasise a certain part of the sentence.

rules

At first we have to separate all sentences into two groups:

- statements
- questions

examples:

- *statement*: Du gehst weg. (You go away.)
- *question*: Gehst du weg? (Do you go away?)

At second we have to distinguish between:

- main clauses*
- subordinate clauses

* clause is just another word for "sentence"



examples:

- *main clause*: **Ich weiß nicht**, wann der Bus ankommt. (I don't know when the bus arrives.)
- *subordinate clause*: Ich weiß nicht, **wann der Bus ankommt**. (I don't know when the bus arrives.)

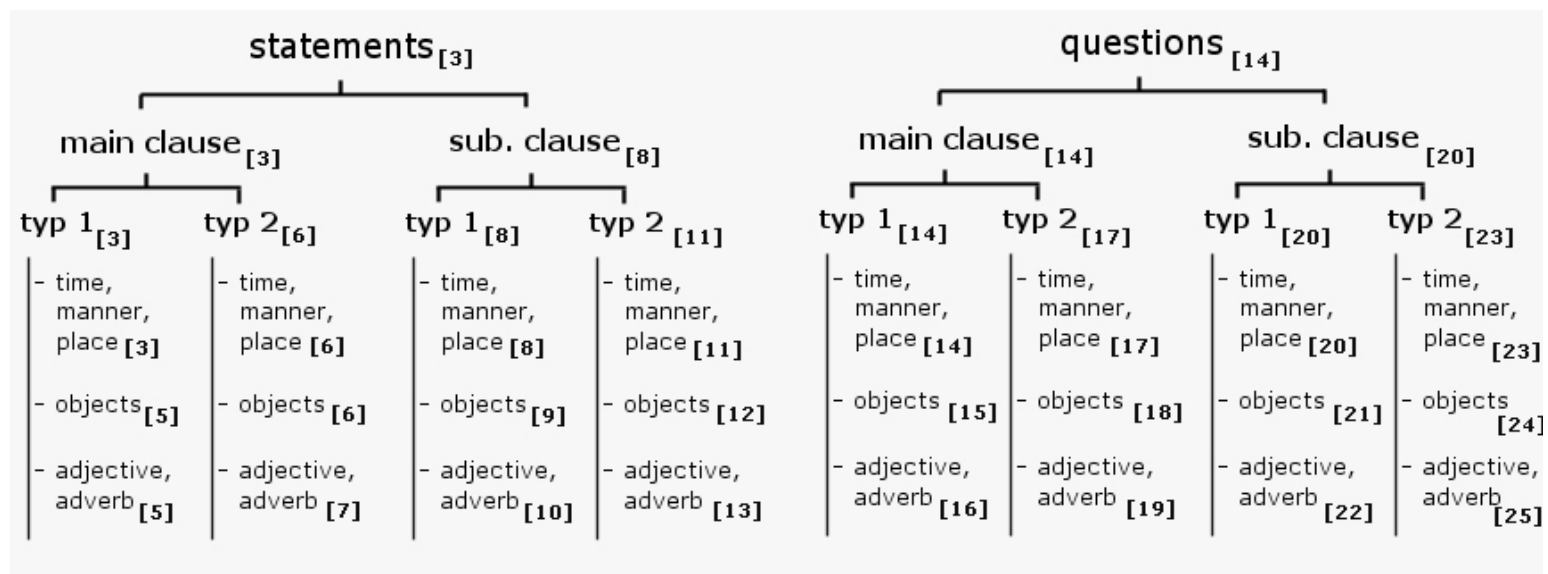
At last we must separate between sentences of typ 1 and 2:

typ 1: sentences which have only a main verb	typ 2: sentences which consists of main verb and helping verb / modal verb
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sentences in the "Präsens" tense • sentences in the "Präteritum" tense 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sentences in the "Perfekt" tense • sentences in the "Futur" tense • modal verb sentences

You'll find a lot of example sentences now.

To make it less complicate I made several examples where you find the most important elements of sentences.

This overview should help you to find the following examples easier. I added in brackets the pages where you find them.





statements

statements - main clauses

Typ 1

A: Position of subject, main verb, time, manner and place

I'd like to build up the sentence with the different elements step by step.

Step 1: The simplest form of a sentence consists just of subject and main verb.

subject + **main verb** + (**main verb - prefix**)

examples:

- "Präsens" tense: Ich fahre. (I drive.)
- "Präteritum" tense: Ich fuhr. (I drove.)

Step 2: At next we add a time expression.

subject + **main verb** + **time** + (**main verb - prefix**)

examples:

- "Präsens" tense: Ich fahre heute. (I drive today.)
- "Präteritum" tense: Ich fuhr gestern. (I drove yesterday.)



Step 3: At next we add the manner expression - that means how do we do something.

subject + **main verb** + **time** + **manner** + (**main verb - prefix**)

examples:

- "Präsens" tense: Ich fahre heute mit dem Auto. (I drive today with the car.)
- "Präteritum" tense: Ich fuhr gestern mit dem Auto. (I drove yesterday with the car.)

Step 4: At last we add the place.

subject + **main verb** + **time** + **manner** + **place** + (**main verb - prefix**)

examples:

- "Präsens" tense: Ich fahre heute mit dem Auto nach Berlin. (I drive today with the car to Berlin.)
- "Präteritum" tense: Ich fuhr gestern mit dem Auto nach Berlin. (I drove yesterday with the car to Berlin.)

problem separable verbs

If you carefully checked the examples above you noticed that I didn't use any main verb prefix although you find it in the general explanation. You need this only if the main verb is a separable verb. In this case the prefix goes at the very end of the sentence.

I substitute the simple verb *fahren* (drive) by the separable verb *wegfahren* (drive away) to make it clear.

examples:

- "Präsens" tense: Ich fahre heute mit dem Auto **weg**. (I drive away today with the car.)
- "Präteritum" tense: Ich fuhr gestern mit dem Auto **weg**. (I drove away yesterday with the car.)



B: Position of subject, main verb, direct object and indirect object

subject + **main verb** + **indirect object** + **direct object** + (**main verb - prefix**)

examples:

- "Präsens" tense: Ich gebe dem Kind ein Buch. (I give a book to the child.)
- "Präteritum" tense: Ich gab dem Kind ein Buch. (I gave book to the child.)

I don't want to make it too complicate, but I have to add that the position of the direct and the indirect objects change if the direct object is a pronoun.

examples:

- "Präsens" tense: Ich gebe es dem Kind. (I give it to the child.)
- "Präteritum" tense: Ich gab es dem Kind. (I gave it to the child.)

C: Position of subject, main verb, object, adjective and adverb

I don't distinguish between direct and indirect object because for both you can apply the same rules:

The adjective precedes the subject / object it belongs to and the adverb precedes the adjective it belongs to.

subject + **main verb** + **abverb** + **adjective** + **object** + (**main verb - prefix**)

examples:

- "Präsens" tense: Ich sehe ein sehr hübsches Mädchen. (I see a very cute girl.)
- "Präteritum" tense: Ich sah ein sehr hübsches Mädchen. (I saw a very cute girl.)



Typ 2

A: Position of subject, main verb, helping verb / modal verb, time, manner and place

I left out the steps 1 to 3 because they follow the same pattern shown above.

subject + helping verb/
modal verb + time + manner + place + main verb

examples:

- "Perfekt" tense: Ich bin gestern mit dem Auto nach Berlin gefahren. (I drove yesterday with the car to Berlin.)
- "Futur" tense: Ich werde morgen mit dem Auto nach Berlin fahren. (I will drive tomorrow with the car to Berlin.)
- Modal verb sentences: Ich muss heute mit dem Auto nach Berlin fahren. (I must drive today with the car to Berlin.)

B: Position of subject, main verb, helping verb / modal verb, direct object and indirect object

subject + helping verb/
modal verb + indirect object + direct object + main verb

examples:

- "Perfekt" tense: Ich habe dem Kind ein Buch gegeben. (I gave a book to the child.)
- "Futur" tense: Ich werde dem Kind ein Buch geben. (I will give a book to the child.)
- Modal verb sentences: Ich muss dem Kind ein Buch geben. (I must give a book to the child.)



When the direct object is a pronoun it precedes the indirect object (see explanation typ 1).

examples:

- *"Perfekt" tense*: Ich habe es dem Kind gegeben. (I gave it to the child.)
- *"Futur" tense*: Ich werde es dem Kind geben. (I will give it to the child.)
- *Modal verb sentences*: Ich muss es dem Kind geben. (I must give it to the child.)

C: Position of subject, main verb, helping verb / modal verb, object, adjective and adverb

I don't distinguish between direct and indirect object because for both you can apply the same rules:

The adjective precedes the subject / object it belongs to and the adverb precedes the adjective it belongs to.

subject + **helping verb/
modal verb** + **abverb** + **adjective** + **object** + **main verb**

examples:

- *"Perfekt" tense*: Ich habe das sehr hübsche Mädchen gesehen. (I saw the very cute girl.)
- *"Futur" tense*: Ich werde das sehr hübsche Mädchen sehen. (I will see the very cute girl.)
- *Modal verb sentences*: Ich muss das sehr hübsche Mädchen sehen. (I must see the very cute girl.)



statements - subordinate clauses

Typ 1

A: Position of subject, subordinate conjunction / relative pronoun, main verb, time, manner and place

dependent clauses

Dependent clauses start with a subordinate conjunction (dass, ob, als, weil, bevor,...). The subordinate conjunction is the first element of the subordinate sentence. The main verb goes at the very end of the sentence. The other elements remain at their position.

main clause, **sub.-conjunction** + **subject** + **time** + **manner** + **place** + **main verb**

examples:

- "Präsens" tense: Ich weiß, dass du heute mit dem Auto nach Berlin fährst. (I know that you drive with the car to Berlin today.)
- "Präteritum" tense: Ich weiß, dass du gestern mit dem Auto nach Berlin fuhrst. (I know that you drove with the car to Berlin yesterday.)

relative pronoun clauses

Relative pronoun clauses start with a relative pronoun (der, die, das, welche, den,...).

The relative pronoun is the first element of the subordinate sentence.

The main verb goes at the very end of the sentence.

The other elements remain at their position.

main clause, **relative pronoun** + **subject** + **time** + **manner** + **place** + **main verb**

examples:

- "Präsens" tense: Ich kenne den Mann, den du heute mit dem Auto nach Berlin fährst. (I know the man who you drive with the car to Berlin today.)
- "Präteritum" tense: Ich kenne den Mann, den du gestern mit dem Auto nach Berlin fuhrst. (I know the man who you drove with the car to Berlin yesterday.)



B: Position of subject, subordinate conjunction / relative pronoun, main verb, direct object and indirect object

dependent clauses

main clause , **sub.-conjunction** + **subject** + **indirect object** + **direct object** + **main verb**

examples:

- "Präsens" tense: Ich weiß, dass du dem Kind ein Buch gibst. (I know that you give a book to the child.)
- "Präteritum" tense: Ich weiß, dass du dem Kind ein Buch gabst. (I know that you gave a book to the child.)

relative pronoun clauses

main clause , **relative pronoun** + **subject** + **indirect object** + **direct object** + **main verb**

examples:

- "Präsens" tense: Ich kenne den Tag, an dem du dem Kind das Buch gibst. (I know the day on which you give the book to the child.)
- "Präteritum" tense: Ich kenne den Tag, an dem du dem Kind das Buch gabst. (I know the day on which you gave the book to the child.)



C: Position of subject, subordinate conjunction / relative pronoun, main verb, object, adjective and adverb

dependent clauses

main clause, **sub.-conjunction** + **subject** + **abverb** + **adjective** + **object** + **main verb**

examples:

- "Präsens" tense: Ich weiß, dass du das sehr hübsche Mädchen siehst. (I know that you see the very cute girl.)
- "Präteritum" tense: Ich weiß, dass du das sehr hübsche Mädchen sahst. (I know that you saw the very cute girl.)

relative pronoun clauses

main clause, **relative pronoun** + **subject** + **abverb** + **adjective** + **object** + **main verb**

examples:

- "Präsens" tense: Ich kenne den Tag, an dem du das sehr hübsche Mädchen siehst. (I know the day on which you see the very cute girl.)
- "Präteritum" tense: Ich kenne den Tag, an dem du das sehr hübsche Mädchen sahst. (I know the day on which you saw the very cute girl.)



Typ 2

A: Position of subject, subordinate conjunction / relative pronoun, main verb, helping verb / modal verb, time, manner and place

dependent clauses

main clause , sub.-conjunction + subject + time + manner + place + main verb + helping verb/
modal verb

examples:

- "Perfekt" tense: Ich weiß, dass du gestern mit dem Auto nach Berlin gefahren bist. (I know that you drove with the car to Berlin yesterday.)
- "Futur" tense: Ich weiß, dass du morgen mit dem Auto nach Berlin fahren wirst. (I know that you will drive with the car to Berlin tomorrow.)
- Modal verb sentences: Ich weiß, dass du heute mit dem Auto nach Berlin fahren musst. (I know that you must drive with the car to Berlin today.)

relative pronoun clauses

main clause , relative pronoun + subject + time + manner + place + main verb + helping verb/
modal verb

examples:

- "Perfekt" tense: Ich kenne den Mann, mit dem du gestern mit dem Auto nach Berlin gefahren bist. (I know with whom you drove with the car to Berlin yesterday.)
- "Futur" tense: Ich kenne den Mann, mit dem du morgen mit dem Auto nach Berlin fahren wirst. (I know with whom you will drive with the car to Berlin tomorrow.)
- Modal verb sentences: Ich kenne den Mann, mit dem du heute mit dem Auto nach Berlin fahren musst. (I know with whom you must drive with the car to Berlin today.)



B: Position of subject, main verb, helping verb / modal verb, direct object and indirect object

dependent clauses

main clause , **sub.-conjunction** + **subject** + **indirect object** + **direct object** + **main verb** + **helping verb/
modal verb**

examples:

- *"Perfekt" tense:* Ich weiß, dass du dem Kind das Buch gegeben hast. (I know that you gave the book to the child.)
- *"Futur" tense:* Ich weiß, dass du dem Kind das Buch geben wirst. (I know that you will give the book to the child.)
- *Modal verb sentences:* Ich weiß, dass du dem Kind das Buch geben musst. (I know that you must give the book to the child.)

relative pronoun clauses

main clause , **relative pronoun** + **subject** + **indirect object** + **direct object** + **main verb** + **helping verb/
modal verb**

examples:

- *"Perfekt" tense:* Ich kenne den Tag, an dem du dem Kind das Buch gegeben hast. (I know the day on which you gave the book to the child.)
- *"Futur" tense:* Ich kenne den Tag, an dem du dem Kind das Buch geben wirst. (I know the day on which you will give the book to the child.)
- *Modal verb sentences:* Ich kenne den Tag, an dem du dem Kind das Buch geben musst. (I know the day on which you must give the book to the child.)



C: Position of subject, subordinate conjunction / relative pronoun, main verb, helping verb / modal verb, object, adjective and adverb

dependent clauses

main clause , **sub.-conjunction** + **subject** + **abverb** + **adjective** + **object** + **main verb** + **helping verb/
modal verb**

examples:

- *"Perfekt" tense:* Ich weiß, dass du das sehr hübsche Mädchen gesehen hast. (I know that you saw the very cute girl.)
- *"Futur" tense:* Ich weiß, dass du das sehr hübsche Mädchen sehen wirst. (I know that you will see the very cute girl.)
- *Modal verb sentences:* Ich weiß, dass du das sehr hübsche Mädchen sehen musst. (I know that you must see the very cute girl.)

relative pronoun clauses

main clause , **relative pronoun** + **subject** + **abverb** + **adjective** + **object** + **main verb** + **helping verb/
modal verb**

examples:

- *"Perfekt" tense:* Ich kenne den Tag, an dem du das sehr hübsche Mädchen gesehen hast. (I know the day on which you saw the very cute girl.)
- *"Futur" tense:* Ich kenne den Tag, an dem du das sehr hübsche Mädchen sehen wirst. (I know the day on which you will see the very cute girl.)
- *Modal verb sentences:* Ich kenne den Tag, an dem du das sehr hübsche Mädchen sehen musst. (I know the day on which you must see the very cute girl.)



questions

questions - main clauses

Typ 1

A: Position of question word, subject, main verb, time, manner and place

questions with question word (ask for a specific piece of information)

question word + **main verb** + **subject** + **time** + **manner** + **place** + (**main verb - prefix**)

examples:

- *"Präsens" tense:* Wann fährst du heute mit dem Auto nach Berlin? (When do you drive today with the car to Berlin?)
- *"Präteritum" tense:* Wann fuhrst du gestern mit dem Auto nach Berlin? (When did you drive yesterday with the car to Berlin?)

questions without question word (ask for yes or no answer)

main verb + **subject** + **time** + **manner** + **place** + (**main verb - prefix**)

examples:

- *"Präsens" tense:* Fährst du heute mit dem Auto nach Berlin? (Do you drive today with the car to Berlin?)
- *"Präteritum" tense:* Fuhrst du gestern mit dem Auto nach Berlin? (Did you drive yesterday with the car to Berlin?)



B: Position of question word, subject, main verb, direct object and indirect object

questions with question word (ask for a specific piece of information)

question word + **main verb** + **subject** + **indirect object** + **direct object** + (**main verb - prefix**)

examples:

- *"Präsens" tense:* Wann gibst du dem Kind das Buch? (When do you give the book to the child?)
- *"Präteritum" tense:* Wann gabst du dem Kind das Buch? (When did you give the book to the child?)

questions without question word (ask for yes or no answer)

main verb + **subject** + **indirect object** + **direct object** + (**main verb - prefix**)

examples:

- *"Präsens" tense:* Gibst du dem Kind das Buch? (Do you give the book to the child?)
- *"Präteritum" tense:* Gabst du dem Kind das Buch? (Did you give the book to the child?)



C: Position of question word, of subject, main verb, object, adjective and adverb

questions with question word (ask for a specific piece of information)

question word + **main verb** + **subject** + **abverb** + **adjective** + **object**

examples:

- *"Präsens" tense:* Wann siehst du das sehr hübsche Mädchen? (When do you see the very cute girl?)
- *"Präteritum" tense:* Wann sahst du das sehr hübsche Mädchen? (When did you see the very cute girl?)

questions without question word (ask for yes or no answer)

main verb + **subject** + **abverb** + **adjective** + **object**

examples:

- *"Präsens" tense:* Siehst du das sehr hübsche Mädchen? (Do you see the very cute girl?)
- *"Präteritum" tense:* Sahst du das sehr hübsche Mädchen? (Did you see the very cute girl?)



Typ 2

A: Position of question word, helping verb / modal verb, subject, main verb, time, manner and place

questions with question word (ask for a specific piece of information)

question word + helping verb/
modal verb + subject + time + manner + place + main verb

examples:

- "Perfekt" tense: Wann bist du gestern mit dem Auto nach Berlin gefahren? (When did you drive yesterday with the car to Berlin?)
- "Futur" tense: Wann wirst du morgen mit dem Auto nach Berlin fahren? (When will you drive tomorrow with the car to Berlin?)
- Modal verb sentences: Wann musst du heute mit dem Auto nach Berlin fahren? (When do you have to drive today with the car to Berlin?)

questions without question word (ask for yes or no answer)

helping verb/
modal verb + subject + time + manner + place + main verb

examples:

- "Perfekt" tense: Bist du gestern mit dem Auto nach Berlin gefahren? (Did you drive yesterday with the car to Berlin?)
- "Futur" tense: Wirst du morgen mit dem Auto nach Berlin fahren? (Will you drive tomorrow with the car to Berlin?)
- Modal verb sentences: Musst du heute mit dem Auto nach Berlin fahren? (Do you have to drive today with the car to Berlin?)



B: Position of question word, helping verb / modal verb, subject, main verb, direct object and indirect object

questions with question word (ask for a specific piece of information)

question word + **helping verb/
modal verb** + **subject** + **indirect object** + **direct object** + **main verb**

examples:

- *"Perfekt" tense:* Wann hast du dem Kind ein Buch gegeben? (When did you give a book to the child?)
- *"Futur" tense:* Wann wirst du dem Kind ein Buch geben? (When will you give a book to the child?)
- *Modal verb sentences:* Wann musst du dem Kind ein Buch geben? (When do you have to give a book to the child?)

questions without question word (ask for yes or no answer)

**helping verb/
modal verb** + **subject** + **indirect object** + **direct object** + **main verb**

examples:

- *"Perfekt" tense:* Hast du dem Kind ein Buch gegeben? (Did you give a book to the child?)
- *"Futur" tense:* Wirst du dem Kind ein Buch geben? (Will you give a book to the child?)
- *Modal verb sentences:* Musst du dem Kind ein Buch geben? (Do you have to give a book to the child?)



C: Position of question word, helping verb / modal verb, of subject, main verb, object, adjective and adverb

questions with question word (ask for a specific piece of information)

question word + helping verb/
modal verb + subject + abverb + adjective + object + main verb

examples:

- "Perfekt" tense: Wann hast du das sehr hübsche Mädchen gesehen? (When did you see the very cute girl?)
- "Futur" tense: Wann wirst du das sehr hübsche Mädchen sehen? (When will you see you see the very cute girl?)
- Modal verb sentences: Wann musst du das sehr hübsche Mädchen sehen? (When do you have to see the very cute girl?)

questions without question word (ask for yes or no answer)

helping verb/
modal verb + subject + abverb + adjective + object + main verb

examples:

- "Perfekt" tense: Hast du das sehr hübsche Mädchen gesehen? (Did you see the very cute girl?)
- "Futur" tense: Wirst du das sehr hübsche Mädchen sehen? (Will you see you see the very cute girl?)
- Modal verb sentences: Musst du das sehr hübsche Mädchen sehen? (Do you have to see the very cute girl?)



questions - subordinate clauses

Typ 1

A: Position of subject, subordinate conjunction / relative pronoun, main verb, time, manner and place

dependent clauses

main clause, sub.-conjunction + subject + time + manner + place + main verb

examples:

- "Präsens" tense: Weißt du, dass ich heute mit dem Auto nach Berlin fahre? (Do you know that I drive with the car to Berlin today?)
- "Präteritum" tense: Weißt du, dass ich gestern mit dem Auto nach Berlin fuhr? (Do you know that I drove with the car to Berlin yesterday?)

relative pronoun clauses

main clause, relative pronoun + subject + time + manner + place + main verb

examples:

- "Präsens" tense: Kennst du den Mann, den ich heute mit dem Auto nach Berlin fahre? (Do you know the man who I drive with the car to Berlin today?)
- "Präteritum" tense: Kennst du den Mann, den ich gestern mit dem Auto nach Berlin fuhr? (Do you know the man who I drove with the car to Berlin yesterday?)



B: Position of subject, subordinate conjunction / relative pronoun, main verb, direct object and indirect object

dependent clauses

main clause , **sub.-conjunction** + **subject** + **indirect object** + **direct object** + **main verb**

examples:

- *"Präsens" tense:* Weißt du, dass ich dem Kind ein Buch gebe? (Do you know that I give a book to the child?)
- *"Präteritum" tense:* Weißt du, dass ich dem Kind ein Buch gab? (Do know that I gave a book to the child?)

relative pronoun clauses

main clause , **relative pronoun** + **subject** + **indirect object** + **direct object** + **main verb**

examples:

- *"Präsens" tense:* Kennst du den Tag, an dem ich dem Kind das Buch gebe? (Do you know the day on which I give the book to the child?)
- *"Präteritum" tense:* Kennst du den Tag, an dem ich dem Kind das Buch gab? (Do you know the day on which I gave the book to the child?)



C: Position of subject, subordinate conjunction / relative pronoun, main verb, object, adjective and adverb

dependent clauses

main clause , **sub.-conjunction** + **subject** + **abverb** + **adjective** + **object** + **main verb**

examples:

- "Präsens" tense: Weißt du, dass ich das sehr hübsche Mädchen sehe? (Do you know that I see the very cute girl?)
- "Präteritum" tense: Weißt du, dass ich das sehr hübsche Mädchen sah? (Do you know that I saw the very cute girl?)

relative pronoun clauses

main clause , **relative pronoun** + **subject** + **abverb** + **adjective** + **object** + **main verb**

examples:

- "Präsens" tense: Kennst du den Tag, an dem ich das sehr hübsche Mädchen sehe? (Do you know the day on which I see the very cute girl?)
- "Präteritum" tense: Kennst du den Tag, an dem ich das sehr hübsche Mädchen sah? (Do you know the day on which I saw the very cute girl?)



Typ 2

A: Position of subject, subordinate conjunction / relative pronoun, main verb, helping verb / modal verb, time, manner and place

dependent clauses

main clause , **sub.-conjunction** + **subject** + **time** + **manner** + **place** + **main verb** + **helping verb/
modal verb**

examples:

- "Perfekt" tense: Weißt du, dass ich gestern mit dem Auto nach Berlin gefahren bin? (Do you know that I drove with the car to Berlin yesterday?)
- "Futur" tense: Weißt du, dass ich morgen mit dem Auto nach Berlin fahren werde? (Do you know that I will drive with the car to Berlin tomorrow?)
- *Modal verb sentences*: Weißt du, dass ich heute mit dem Auto nach Berlin fahren muss? (Do you know that I must drive with the car to Berlin today?)

relative pronoun clauses

main clause , **relative pronoun** + **subject** + **time** + **manner** + **place** + **main verb** + **helping verb/
modal verb**

examples:

- "Perfekt" tense: Kennst du den Mann, mit dem ich gestern mit dem Auto nach Berlin gefahren bin? (Do you know with whom I drove with the car to Berlin yesterday?)
- "Futur" tense: Kennst du den Mann, mit dem ich morgen mit dem Auto nach Berlin fahren werde? (Do you know with whom I will drive with the car to Berlin tomorrow?)
- *Modal verb sentences*: Kennst du den Mann, mit dem ich heute mit dem Auto nach Berlin fahren muss? (Do you know with whom I must drive with the car to Berlin today?)



B: Position of subject, main verb, helping verb / modal verb, direct object and indirect object

dependent clauses

main clause , **sub.-conjunction** + **subject** + **indirect object** + **direct object** + **main verb** + **helping verb/
modal verb**

examples:

- *"Perfekt" tense:* Weißt du, dass ich dem Kind das Buch gegeben habe? (Do you know that I gave the book to the child?)
- *"Futur" tense:* Weißt du, dass ich dem Kind das Buch geben werde? (Do you know that I will give the book to the child?)
- *Modal verb sentences:* Weißt du, dass ich dem Kind das Buch geben muss? (Do you know that I must give the book to the child?)

relative pronoun clauses

main clause , **relative pronoun** + **subject** + **indirect object** + **direct object** + **main verb** + **helping verb/
modal verb**

examples:

- *"Perfekt" tense:* Kennst du den Tag, an dem ich dem Kind das Buch gegeben hab? (Do you know the day on which I gave the book to the child?)
- *"Futur" tense:* Kennst du den Tag, an dem ich dem Kind das Buch geben werde? (Do you know the day on which I will give the book to the child?)
- *Modal verb sentences:* Kennst du den Tag, an dem ich dem Kind das Buch geben muss? (Do you know the day on which I must give the book to the child?)



C: Position of subject, subordinate conjunction / relative pronoun, main verb, helping verb / modal verb, object, adjective and adverb

dependent clauses

main clause, **sub.-conjunction** + **subject** + **abverb** + **adjective** + **object** + **main verb** + **helping verb/
modal verb**

examples:

- *"Perfekt" tense:* Weißt du, dass ich das sehr hübsche Mädchen gesehen habe? (Do you know that I saw the very cute girl?)
- *"Futur" tense:* Weißt du, dass ich das sehr hübsche Mädchen sehen werde? (Do you know that I will see the very cute girl?)
- *Modal verb sentences:* Weißt du, dass ich das sehr hübsche Mädchen sehen muss? (Do you know that I must see the very cute girl?)

relative pronoun clauses

main clause, **relative pronoun** + **subject** + **abverb** + **adjective** + **object** + **main verb** + **helping verb/
modal verb**

examples:

- *"Perfekt" tense:* Kennst du den Tag, an dem ich das sehr hübsche Mädchen gesehen habe? (Do you know the day on which I saw the very cute girl?)
- *"Futur" tense:* Kennst du den Tag, an dem ich das sehr hübsche Mädchen sehen werde? (Do you know the day on which I will see the very cute girl?)
- *Modal verb sentences:* Kennst du den Tag, an dem ich das sehr hübsche Mädchen sehen muss? (Do you know the day on which I must see the very cute girl?)



summary

statements

	typ 1 (Präsens, Präteritum)				typ 2 (Perfekt, Future, Modal)				
main clauses	subject	main verb	other elements	(main verb prefix)	subject	helping verb	other elements	main verb	
subordinate clauses	subject		other elements	main verb	subject		other elements	main verb	helping verb

questions

	typ 1 (Präsens, Präteritum)				typ 2 (Perfekt, Future, Modal)				
main clauses	main verb	subject	other elements	(main verb prefix)	helping verb	subject	other elements	main verb	
subordinate clauses	subject		other elements	main verb	subject		other elements	main verb	helping verb

The table gives some interesting insights in the complicate topic *word order*:

1.) Subordinate clauses don't differ in statements and questions.

2.) In main clauses - typ 1 the main verb is usually at the second position.
 In subordinate clauses it goes to the end and in question to the top position.

3.) In typ 2-sentences the helping verb behaves like the main verb (see point 2).
 The main verb becomes just to a second "other element" which follows the "normal" other elements.



Finally, I want to discuss some other "constructions" which can occur and don't fit into the schema above:

imperative clauses

Imperative clauses are like a third group of sentences besides "statements" and "questions".

Fortunately, they are quite easy to handle because they are just used in present tense in main clauses.

imperative for "du" and "ihr"

Consider, that there is no subject in this imperative form.

main verb + **other elements** + (**main verb - prefix**)

examples :

- for "du": Nimm das Kind! (Take the child!)
- for "ihr": Nemmt das Kind! (Take the child!)

I simplified the examples here. The object stands for all possible elements (adjectives, adverbs, time, manner, place ...).

imperative for "Sie"

main verb + **Sie** + **other elements** + (**main verb - prefix**)

examples :

- for "Sie": Nehmen Sie das Kind! (Take the child!)



infinitive with to

Infinitive + to -structures can be considered as a kind of subordinate clause.
They are attached to main clauses.

"Infinitive + to" -structures with "normal" verbs

The "infinitive + to" -structure with "normal" verbs is just added to the main sentence:

main clause , (**other elements**) + **zu** + **main verb**

example:

- Ich habe keine Zeit, dich zu sehen. (I don't have time to see you.)

"Infinitive + to" -structures with separable verbs

In "Infinitive + to" -structures with separable verbs the "zu" goes between the prefix and the stem:

main clause , (**other elements**) + **main verb -
prefix** **zu** **stem**

example:

- Ich habe keine Zeit, dich wiederzusehen. (I don't have time to see you again.)

negation

For the position of "nicht" or "kein" in negative statements / questions please check the topic [Negation](#).