

Unit 62: SIMPLE SENTENCE TYPES

All sentences need a subject and a verb. Some sentences do not need anything else to complete them. But with most sentences, a subject and a verb are not enough. This unit shows you seven basic types of sentences.

1

SUBJECT + VERB (only)

Maria is working.

They worked.

It has been working.

Of course, we can add extra information if we want to:

Maria is working very hard **these days**.

They talked **about work**.

It has been working **for days**.

But the extra information is not necessary to make a good sentence.

2

SUBJECT + VERB + NOUN PHRASE (Unit 45)

We have found a broken fuse.

John is the best electrician.

The client saw me.

These sentences are not complete without the noun phrase.

3

SUBJECT + VERB + ADJECTIVE (Unit 64)

The noise was terrible.

She looked scared.

The fuse popped noisily.

You can also make sentences of this type with these verbs:

become, get, feel, seem, smell, sound.

4

SUBJECT + VERB + NOUN PHRASE + PLACE

John put the fuse in the fusebox.

He left his bag on the van.

We must complete a sentence with **put** this way.

5

SUBJECT + VERB + NOUN PHRASE + NOUN PHRASE

She gave John a screwdriver. gave a screwdriver **to** John

John finished his job. finished it **for** himself

They showed us the new fusebox. showed the fusebox **to** us

He told me a story. told a story **to** me

I paid him a hundred dollars. paid my money **to** him

You can also make sentences of this type with these verbs:

ask, bring, find, leave, make, offer, owe, pay, promise, read, sell, send, take, teach, wish.

6

SUBJECT + VERB + NOUN PHRASE + ADJECTIVE

I twisted the wire tightly.

They kept the lights bright.

She painted the fusebox black.

You can also make sentences of this type with these verbs:

call, find, get, hate, have, leave, like, prefer, want.

7

SUBJECT + VERB + **to** + BASE FORM OF VERB (Unit 14)

Everybody had to go.

I want to leave.

NOTICE

The sentences in **1-7** above show the basic information in the sentence. But we can always add extra information to them. For example:

2 above We have found a broken fuse **in the fusebox**.

3 above **Yesterday**, the noise was terrible.

4 above He left his bag in the van **by mistake**.

5 above She gave John a screwdriver **for his birthday**.

6 above They kept the lights bright **while working**.

7 above I want to leave **as soon as possible**.