

## What Is the Proper Order of a Subject and Predicate?

In most sentences, the **subject** comes before the **predicate**, but in truth, the subject and predicate can be in any order. But the order mostly depends upon the “type” of sentence. The subject and predicate are often reversed for dramatic emphasis, questions, commands, or requests.

**Spencer’s dad** drove the truck across the field.

**The video** was scrambled on Grandma’s ancient television.

**Never in my whole life** have **I** been more mortified!

In **command** or **request** sentences, the subject *you* is often implied rather than stated. These sentences begin with the verb or verb modifier (adverb). In other instances the subject is placed between the auxiliary verb and the main verb—as in the example above.

**Come** here! (subject is implied *you*)

Please **go** away. (subject is implied *you*)

**Will you help** me? (subject is between the auxiliary verb and main verb)

In **question** sentences *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, *why*, and *how* are sometimes known as the *wh* question words. When one of these “question” words replaces the subject, it comes before the predicate. If the “question” word does NOT replace the subject, the auxiliary verb comes before the subject and the main verb is after the subject. If there is not an auxiliary verb and the main verb is NOT *to be*, add the word *do* after the question word.

**Who has** my notebook? (*who* replaces the subject)

Where **can I exchange** currency? (subject is between the auxiliary verb and the main verb)

**Am I?** (no auxiliary verb and main verb is a *to be* verb—invert)

How **do you write** this sentence? (no auxiliary verb and main verb is not *to be*, add *do* after the question word)

### FROM “THE TELL-TALE HEART” BY EDGAR ALLAN POE

**It is** impossible to say how first the idea entered my brain; but once conceived, **it haunted** me day and night. **Object** there **was** none. **Passion** there **was** none. **I loved** the old man. **He had** never **wronged** me. **He had** never **given** me insult. For his gold **I had** no **desire**. I think **it was** his eye! Yes, **it was** this! **He had** the eye of a vulture—a pale blue eye, with a film over it. Whenever it fell upon me, my **blood ran** cold; and so by degrees—very gradually—**I made** up my mind to take the life of the old man, and thus rid myself of the eye forever.