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Auszug aus: *Practising word order*

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A.II.68

Basic skills – Business communication: speaking

Practising word order – Grammatiktraining kompakt

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Die Satzstellung im Englischen ist vermeintlich einfach und hat wenige Ausnahmen. Geht man jedoch über einen simplen Satz hinaus, so kann die richtige Syntax schnell komplex werden. Mithilfe dieser Selbstlernmaterialien üben die Schülerinnen und Schüler die Satzstellung in einfachen und komplexen Aussagesätzen, in verneinten Aussagen und in Fragen. Die Übungen sind in das Thema „Small Talk“ eingebettet.

KOMPETENZPROFIL

Niveau/Lernjahr:	A1/A2; 1.–3. Lernjahr
Umfang:	4 Übungsmaterialien, Test
Kompetenzen:	1. Grammatik: die korrekte Satzstellung in Aussagesätzen, Verneinungen und Fragen verwenden; 2. Sprechen: Small Talk führen
Thematische Bereiche:	<i>grammar, word order, small talk</i>

Word order in English – The rules

Rule sheet

The Rules

1. Affirmative (and negative) sentences

Structure: subject + verb + object (+ optional: adverbials: manner before place before time)

Examples: Paula likes to talk about music. / Paula doesn't like to talk about music.

2. Questions

Questions in English can be divided into two types: yes/no-questions and wh-questions.

a) Yes/No-questions

Structure: auxiliary verb + subject + main verb

Example: Should you talk about politics with strangers?

b) Wh-questions

These questions start with words such as who, what, where, when, why, how, etc.

Structure: Wh-word + auxiliary verb + subject + main verb

Examples: When do you make small talk? / What are good topics for small talk?

3. Commands

Commands typically start with the base form of a verb. Normally the subject is not mentioned.

Structure: verb + object

Example: Open the window!

Caution: There are variations within these general rules, especially when you want to add adverbs/adverbials (such as adverbials of manner, place and time) etc.



TIP: Watch the video and become smarter than everybody else!

<https://raabe.click/word-order>



Exercise 1

Good and bad topics for small talk – Word order in simple affirmative and negative sentences



You can also do the tasks in *LearningApps*: <https://learningapps.org/watch?v=pny6ro7xn23>

Task 1

Put the sentence parts in the correct order. Write down the correct sentences.

1. entertain / people / movies

Movies entertain people.

2. joy / holidays / bring

3. divides / and / friends / politics / colleagues

4. religion / sparks / talking about / controversy

5. **Extra:** problems / strangers / burden / personal

TIP: Remember: the word order in an English sentence is: subject – verb – object.

If you negate a sentence, “n’t” is added to the verb. The auxiliary goes in front of the main verb. The only exception is “to be” which does not need an auxiliary.

Task 2

Negate the following sentences.

1. People will engage in small talk to find solutions for problems in the future.

People will not engage in small talk to find solutions for problems in the future.

2. Small talk causes conflicts between strangers.

3. Topics such as politics and religion are good for small talk.

4. Talking about the weekend or sport creates awkward silences.

5. Many people say that practising small talk improved their communication skills.

6. **Extra:** Paul explained: “Small talk was a good tool for networking.”

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