

## Patterns of Sentences

There are seven sentence patterns that can be formed by using the five sentence elements : S (subject) , V (verb) , O (object) , C (complement) , A (adverbial). These patterns are:

S V      She came.  
S      V

S V C      They are clever.  
S      V      C

S V A      My brother is in his room.  
S                  V                  A

S V O      The boy found his book.  
S                  V                  O

S V O A      Mary put her book on the table.  
S      V      O                  A

S V O C      They elected him their representative.  
S      V      O                  C

S V O O      Zaid sent his father a message.  
S      V                  O                  O

-The subject (S) can be a pronoun (he , she , you ,...) , a proper noun (Ali , Firas , Mary ,...) , a common noun (oil , boys , men ,...) , a noun phrase (the boys , the three books ,....) or a nominal clause (what he said , whether you come or not ,...)

Examples:

They come to school by bus.

Those three young boys are clever.

What Ali said is true.

-The object (O) can also be a pronoun (him , her , them ,...) , a proper noun , a common noun , a noun phrase or a nominal clause.

Examples:

We met them at college.

Sami sent his brother a message.

I believed what Ali said.

-The verb (V) can be a simple verb phrase (take , takes , took ,...) or a complex verb phrase (is playing , has left , has been working ,...)

She likes short stories.

They have left.

Ahmed has been waiting for the bus.

-The complement (C ) is either a noun phrase (the captain , my friend , students ,...) or an adjectival phrase (happy , very happy , too tired ,...). It can either describes the subject (subject complement) or the object (object complement).

Examples:

These boys are very clever.

These boys are my friends.

She made her family happy.

-The adverbial (A) can be a noun phrase (next week , last year ,...) an adverbial phrase (tomorrow , quickly , yesterday ,...) , a prepositional phrase (in his room , with my friends , for three days ,...) or an adverbial clause (when she comes , if you go ,...). It describes the place , the time or the way in which the verbal action or state exists.

Examples:

They arrived yesterday.

The boys are working in the farm.

I had done my work before Ali came.

All elements in the seven patterns should be obligatory elements. However, we may have other structures that include optional elements (adverbials).

Examples:

They left quickly to the hospital three hours ago.

S V (A) (A) (A)

Hasan passed the exam last week.

S V O (A)

Mary put her book in the drawer last Monday.

S V O A (A)

Ali's father has bought a new Japanese car since October.

S V O (A)

This is my book.

S V C

The first winner received a golden medal in the race yesterday.

S V O (A) (A)