

# Using Grammatical Sentence Patterns

## How are sentences formed?

Most simple sentences in English follow 10 sentence patterns. These structures are shown in the following examples.

### Be verb sentences...

### These sentences look like...

- 1: **Subj+be+adverbial of time/place**

*Adverbial* is an umbrella term which covers all adverb forms, whether single forms, phrases, or clauses.

- *The students are here.*

- 2: **Subj+be+adjectival**

*Adjectival* is an umbrella term which covers all adjective forms, whether single words, phrases, or clauses.

- *She is in a bad mood.*

- 3: **Subj+be+nominal**

*Nominal* is an umbrella term which covers all words that function as a noun, whether single words, phrases, or clauses.

- *The astronaut is an old man.*

### Linking verb sentences...

- 4: **Subj+linking verb+adjectival**

- *The students seem diligent.*

- 5: **Subj+linking verb+nominal**

- *The students became scholars.*

### Intransitive verb sentences...

- 6: **Subj+VI**

VI = verb intransitive

- *The students rested.*

### Transitive verb sentences...

- 7: **Subj+VT+DO**

VT = verb transitive; DO = direct object

- *That car needs new tires.*

- 8: **Subj+VT+IO+DO**

IO = indirect object

- *The judge awarded Mary the prize.*

- 9: **Subj+VT+DO+adjective (object complement)**

- *The teacher made the test easy.*

- 10: **Subj+VT+DO+noun (object complement)**

- *They named their dog Oscar.*