

## SENTENCES: BASIC TRANSFORMATIONS

The basic sentence patterns provide the machinery for simple affirmative statements. To change these to requests or questions, we apply basic transformations. We shuffle, add, or take out some of the sentence parts.

1. Complete English sentences normally have at least a subject and a verb. To change a statement to a request or command, we *take out* the subject and change the verb to the request form (**imperative**). (We say that *you* is understood as the subject of the request.)

### Statement

Jim parked the car.  
The nation fought pollution.  
Each student read the instructions.

### Request

*Park* the car.  
*Fight* pollution!  
*Read* the instructions.

2. Sometimes we want to reverse the actor-action-object pattern to put the target first. The original subject trades places with the original object and appears after by. (It may also disappear from the sentence altogether.) The **passive** part of the sentence comes first; the active part last. The verb changes to a special passive form: *is* tested, *was* towed, *has been* renewed.

### Active

*Polio* crippled many children.  
*The police* arrested Mario.  
*Congress* should ban pesticides.

### Passive

Many children *were crippled by polio*.  
Mario *was arrested*.  
Pesticides *should be banned*.

3. To change a statement to a question, we can make all or part of the verb trade places with the with the subject. Most frequently, we move the first auxiliary in front of the subject. If there is not auxiliary, we put in the dummy auxiliary *do* (*does, did*).

### Statement

The bus *has left*.  
I *should tell* him.  
You *notified* the police.  
Sally *hates* men.

### Question

*Has* the bus *left*?  
*Should* I *tell* him?  
*Did* you *notify* the police?  
Why *does* Sally *hate* men?

4. We can put the word *there* in as a sentence opener. We then *delay* the subject till after the verb (usually *is, are, was, or some other form of be*).

### Statement

Hope is for him.  
Fun is in trying.

### There is

There is *hope* for him.  
There is *fun* in trying.

Put the following sentences through their paces. Change each first to a request, then to the passive, then to a question.

1. Igor bought a motorcycle.

---

---

---

2. The ruthless entrepreneur fired the honest assistant.

---

---

---

3. The new neighbors eat only organic food.

---

---

---

4. The helicopter found the survivors.

---

---

---

5. The sweating crew cleared the rocks from the entrance to the cave.

---

---

---

6. The new government stamped out poverty.

---

---

---