

Whenever you have to write a text to deal with a more creative task or assignment, there are other, equally valid, solutions other than the ones below. However, the solutions given here include the most important points and characteristics and should help you to evaluate and improve your own texts.

Basic 3: Getting the word order right (p. 120)

1 In the English language there are no different forms for subjects and objects. They can only be recognised by their position in the sentence (subject before the verb, object after the verb). This makes the word order in an English sentence less flexible than in German.

First look at the information in the boxes. Then put the words below in the correct order to create meaningful sentences.

1. his • John • at Christmas • mother • in Arizona • . • visited

John visited his mother in Arizona at Christmas.

2. her • explained • the next morning • the • to • he • at breakfast • . • situation

He explained the situation to her at breakfast the next morning.

3. if • bought • you • it • afford • you • this expensive house • couldn't • , • shouldn't have • .

If you couldn't afford this expensive house, you shouldn't have bought it.

4. certain • many banks • . • lent • because • rising • money • dubious customers • house values • seemed

Many banks lent dubious customers money because rising house values seemed certain.

2 Study the information on the position of adverb(ial)s. Then find the correct place for them in the sentences below.

1. I wonder what happened to Jill. (*in the holidays, often, in Rome*).
2. She had been abroad. (*never, before*)
3. She was lonely. (*perhaps, at first*)
4. I imagine she met a young Italian and fell in love with him. (*one evening, madly, in a pizzeria*)
5. Is that why she hated going back? (*in September, in England, absolutely, to school*)
6. I have wanted to ask her about it, but I have dared. (*never, always, stupidly*)

3 Look at these examples of subject-verb inversion in the box. Then correct the word order mistakes in the sentences below.

Scarcely I had sat down, when I heard on the door a knock.

Scarcely had I sat down, when I heard a knock on the door

My book lay I in the living room on the table gently.

I lay my book gently on the living room table

It was someone I met when I was three years ago in Rome on holiday.

It was someone I met when I was on holiday in Rome three years ago