Basic 3: Getting the word order right

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.

subject	verb(s)	indirect object	direct object	place	time
John He His bank manager	bought didn't have was willing to give	his mother him	a house enough money a loan.	in Arizona in the bank	last year. at the time.

- The same order applies to subordinate clauses:
  *If **John** had bought **the house** this year, **he** would have paid **much less** for it.*
- If the indirect object is expressed with a pronoun, it comes after the direct object:
  *Don't give **the key** to my mother. Give **it** to me.*

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

_____

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

_____

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

_____

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

_____

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

front position	subject	auxiliary/to be	mid position	verb	object etc	end position
In Arizona In fact, Frankly,	the climate it I	is couldn't	usually rarely ever	 snows live	mild	in the winter. in Phoenix. there happily.

- Front position: adverbs of comment, adverbs of time *(when?)* and place *(where?)*
- Mid position: adverbs of frequency *(how often?)*, adverbs of manner *(how?)*
- End position: adverbs of **m**anner, **p**lace and **t**ime – in that order. Remember: MPT!

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.*

The normal position of subject and verb is reversed
- in sentences beginning with a negative or limiting adverbial: *At no time did I agree to the plan./Hardly had I arrived, when …/Little did I realise that …/Not only had she gone, but also …/Seldom have I seen such a …/…*
- in questions containing an auxiliary or the full verb 'to be': *When did she arrive? How was she?*

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

_____

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

_____

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

_____

Basic 4: Deciding on adjective or adverb

	Adjective	Adverb
function	modifies nouns and pronouns: *I sang a **happy** song. I was **happy**.*	modifies verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs: *I sang **happily**. I was **incredibly** happy. I sing **really** well.*
form	typical adjective endings: -able/-ible, -al, -ful, -ic, -ive, -less, -ous	• add **-ly** onto adjective: *sad – sadly, helpful – helpfully* • irregular forms: *well, hard, fast, late, early, daily*
comparative/ superlative	• add ***-er/-est*** to stem (words of 1–2 syllables): *older/oldest, sadder/saddest, happier/happiest* • ***more/most*** + adjective (of 3 or more syllables): *more/most wonderful, more/most brilliant* • irregular: *(good) better/best, (bad) worse/worst*	• add ***more/most*** to the adverb: *more/most easily, more/most freely, more/most spectacularly* • irregular: *(well) better/best, (hard) harder/hardest, (fast) faster/fastest, etc.*
watch out for	• adj. after certain verbs: *taste, sound, look, etc.* • adj. + preposition: *good at, typical of, etc.*	seemingly regular forms with a completely different meaning, such as *lately* (= recently) and *hardly* (= not much)

1 *Look at the words in bold type and underline those that are adverbs (not adjectives).*

It was a **lovely** day and everyone in the park seemed **extremely friendly**. I had been studying **hard** for my **ghastly** exams, had gone to bed **late** and hadn't slept **well**, so I **probably** looked **incredibly pale** and **unhealthy** as I wandered **slowly** among the people jogging or taking their **daily** walk. But I didn't **particularly** care. I felt **good**.

2 *Decide which of the two options in brackets is correct and write it in.*

1. What an _____ stunning dress! (absolute, absolutely) Mary always dresses _____, doesn't she? (beautiful, beautifully) Of course, she's got such a _____ developed sense of style. (high, highly)
2. The class is _____ noisy this morning. (awful, awfully) Some of them look _____ mean too. (pretty, prettily) I'd better go _____ on them. (easy, easily) You know, not do anything too _____. (hard, hardly)
3. I read the menu _____. (careful, carefully) The three-course meal sounded _____. (fine, finely) It was _____ cheap. (ridiculous, ridiculously) But it still tasted _____. (good, well)

3 *Decide whether you need an adjective or an adverb in the simple, comparative, or superlative forms.*

1. Of all the candidates, Barack Obama was the one who spoke _____ (convincing).
2. John McCain was _____ than Obama, but he wasn't the (old) _____ candidate running.
3. John McCain did _____ (poor) in the debates, and his campaign reacted _____ (erratic) to new developments.
4. News travels _____ (slow) via traditional media than it does over the Internet.
5. Candidates can sound _____ (good) in a TV interview – until it gets repeated too often on YouTube!
6. I'd say Hillary Clinton was the _____ (successful) woman ever to run for president.
7. Obama's supporters felt _____ (certain) of victory so he cautioned them about overconfidence.

4 *Explain the differences in meaning.*

1. working hard = _____
   hardly working = _____
2. a most interesting book = _____
   a book that is mostly interesting = _____