



Back to Basics Workshop: Building Better Sentences

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**Basic sentences are the
foundation of writing!**



Trying to write 'smart' sentences often leads to writing overly complicated sentences that are difficult to understand. Writing simple sentences and building from a basic structure can keep ideas clear. These sentence often sound more intelligent than complicated ones.



Let's practice developing sentences

- Every sentence needs a beginning, middle, and end.
- I like to think there are three basic ways to have a beginning, middle, and end in a sentence.
 - Subject, verb, object
 - Background, subject, action
 - Subject, action, result



Subject, Verb, Object

This is a very basic, but very handy sentence structure. Though it is simple, it can continue to be built with prepositional phrases, creating longer and more complicated sentences and ideas.

The next slide has several examples of simple sentences and one example of a simple sentence with an additional prepositional phrase.



Example: Subject, Verb, Object

The article (**subject**) describes (**verb**) interview methods (**object**).

The researchers (**subject**) conducted (**verb**) a field survey (**object**).

I (**subject**) developed (**verb**) a framework (**object**).

We determined the result with a linear regression model
(prepositional phrase).



Background, Subject, Action

This sentence provides context at the beginning, then provides the subject and action. The context at the start provides necessary information to understand the sentence, and is usually marked with a comma before the subject. The subject comes next and the action afterward. The action includes the verb and direct object.



Example: Background, Subject, Action

First (background), we (subject) developed the model (action).

After the articles were collected (background), we (subject) reviewed the abstracts (actions) for key themes.

As the results reveal, children who eat few vegetables do not like fruit.



Subject, Action, Result

This structure is similar to a simple sentence. Instead of identifying the three pieces as parts of speech (subject, verb, object), we can identify them by their purpose (subject, action, result). With this, we can be more creative with each section of the sentence. See the examples on the next slide.



Example: Subject, Action, Result

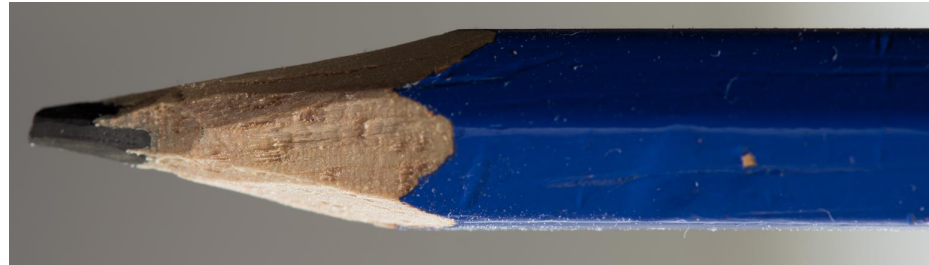
The researchers (**subject**) determined (**action**) a solution (**result**).

I (**subject**) found (**action**) that the most common car color is red (**result**).

We developed a new method to cure cancer in youth populations.

Let's practice: What is the sentence order?

Our future research will create a new model to better address the high price of medical goods for consumers.



Let's practice: Answer

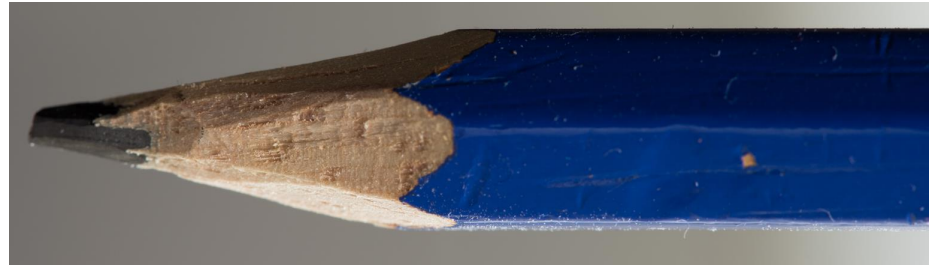
Our future research (**subject**) will create a new model (**action**) to better address the high price of medical goods for consumers (**result**).





Let's practice: What is the sentence order?

After we developed a new method, we created a new chemical compound.





Let's practice: Answer

After we developed a new method (**background**), we (**subject**) created a new chemical compound (**action**).

OR you may identify the part as..

After we developed a new method (**background**), we (**subject**) created (**action/verb**) a new chemical compound (**result/object**).

Both are CORRECT ways of building sentences.



You got this!

Create a few sentences on your own!

Vary the sentence structures used in your writing to create more engaging prose for your reader.

Let's get writing!