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SENTENCE STRUCTURE L5 – WHERE IS THE SUBJECT?

COMPARISON TO ENGLISH

In German, the subject of the main clause should be as close to the conjugated verb as possible.

Unlike in English, it DOES NOT HAVE TO be in front of the verb.

We place the most important information always in position 1 for emphasis. When that is not the case, the subject needs to be behind the verb.



EXAMPLE:

- A: „**Ich** **habe** mein Handy verloren.“
(The subject is the most important information.)
- A: „Wo **ist** **mein Handy**?“
(The question word is, of course, the most important word!)
- B: „Auf den Bett **liegt** **es** doch!“
(Here, the answer is the most important phrase!)

TASK



- Compare it to your native language. Does your native language force you, like in English, to put the subject in front of the verb?

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