

Sie hat **heute** dem  
Nachbarn den Rasen  
gemäht.

*She cut her neighbour's  
lawn today.*

For emphasis, adverbs are often placed in the **Vorfeld** or at the end of the **Mittelfeld**:

**Letzte Woche** hat er  
dem Kunden den  
Kühlschrank repariert.  
Er hat dem Kunden den  
Kühlschrank **letzte Woche**  
repariert.

*It was last week that he  
repaired the customer's fridge.*

## 36.2 Questions and commands

In questions expecting the answer 'yes/no' and in commands, the conjugated verb is normally the first element. The subject (if any) is placed second. As in main clause statements, other parts of the verb are placed at the end:

Verb 1	Other elements	Verb 2
<b>Fahren</b>	Sie in die Stadt?	
<b>Könnten</b>	Sie mir das Salz	<b>reichen?</b>
<b>Hilf</b>	ihm bitte!	

*(Are you going into town? Could you pass me the salt? Please help him.)*

However, in questions with an interrogative word or phrase this precedes the verb. The subject then follows the verb:

Interrogative	Verb 1	Other elements
Was	<b>machst</b>	du?
Welches Eis	<b>möchtet</b>	ihr?

*(What are you doing? Which ice cream would you like?)*

The position of all other elements is as in statements, explained in 36.1.3–5.

## 36.3 Subordinate clauses

### ■ 36.3.1 Normal order

The subordinating conjunction (35.2) is placed at the beginning of the subordinate clause. The conjugated verb is usually placed at the end, and other parts of the verb immediately precede it.

Conjunction	Other elements	Verb 2	Verb 1
Als	sie		<b>kam, ...</b>
Weil	er nicht	<b>gehen</b>	<b>konnte, ...</b>
Obwohl	ich ihn	<b>gerufen</b>	<b>hatte, ...</b>

*(When she arrived ..., Because he couldn't walk ..., Although I had called him ...)*

However, if there are two or more infinitives at the end, the conjugated verb precedes these:

Obwohl ich immer **habe** *Although I always had to*  
arbeiten müssen, ... *work ...*

If the same verb applies to two or more consecutive subordinate clauses, it is placed at the end of the last clause:

Sie kann nicht kommen, *She can't come because*  
weil sie arbeiten (muss) *she has to work and*  
und sich auf das Examen *prepare for the exam.*  
vorbereiten **muss**.

### ■ 36.3.2 Special verbs

**a** Separable verbs are united with their prefix at the end of the clause:

Ich komme, wenn du mich *I'll come if you pick me up.*  
**abholst**.

**b** With reflexive verbs, the reflexive pronoun follows a pronoun subject but may precede or follow a noun subject: