

German Word Order

Languages

Where the verb goes — the rule that governs every German sentence.

In a main clause the conjugated verb is always the second element. In a subordinate clause it goes last.

Main: [1] VERB [rest] · Subordinate: weil [rest] VERB

Ich gehe heute ins Kino.

verb second

Ich is element one.

Heute gehe ich ins Kino.

still verb second

Heute takes slot one, so the subject moves after the verb.

..., weil ich heute ins Kino gehe.

verb last

weil, dass, wenn, ob and obwohl all send it to the end.

THE COMMON MISTAKE

✗ Heute ich gehe ins Kino

✓ Heute gehe ich ins Kino

'Second element' means second unit, not second word. Once something else occupies slot one, the subject is displaced.

Extra information orders as TeKaMoLo: Time, Cause, Manner, Place.