

Word Order

Languages

How the world's languages order subject, verb and object.

Basic order in a simple declarative sentence.

Order	Share	Languages
SOV	~45%	Japanese, Turkish, Hindi, Korean
SVO	~42%	English, Chinese, Spanish, Swahili
VSO	~9%	Arabic, Irish, Welsh
VOS	~3%	Malagasy, Fijian
OVS / OSV	<1%	Very rare

Languages with rich case marking can afford freer order, because the endings carry the roles. Latin and Russian both do.