

# Sentence Structures

A Thai complete sentence can have only subject and verb or subject and adjective.

**Subjects** have to be a noun which is a word (other than a pronoun) used to identify any of a class of people, places, or things (common noun), or a pronoun which is a word that can function by itself as a noun and that refers either to the participants in the discourse (e.g., *I, you*) or to someone or something mentioned elsewhere in the discourse (e.g., *she, it, this*) or to name a particular one of these (proper noun).

**Verbs** are a word used to describe an action, feeling, state, or occurrence, and forming the main part of the predicate of a sentence, such as *hear, become, happen, love*.

**Adjectives** are a word or phrase naming an attribute, added to or grammatically related to a noun to modify or describe it.

**An object or explanation** part doesn't always have to be in the sentence. An object or explanation is added for clarifying the whole sentence when you need to.

## Sentence type 1: Subject + Verb + Explanation part

| Subject                       | Verb   | Object or explanation part |  |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| Noun (or)<br>Personal pronoun | action (or) feeling (or)<br>verb to be (เป็น, คือ, อยู่) | prepositio<br>n            | noun (or) adjective (or) adverb (or)<br>clause |
| ผม                            | วิ่ง   |                            |  |
| I                             | run  |                            |  |
| ผม                            | เป็น   |                            | ก๊วก   |
| I                             | am   |                            | (a) chef (noun)                                |
| เขา                           | ทำงาน  |                            | เก่ง (adverb (or) adjective)                   |
| He/She                        | works  |                            | excellently                                    |
| พ่อ                           | เดิน   |                            | ไว (adverb)                                    |
| Dad                           | walks  |                            | fast   |
| เขา                           | ด่า  |                            | ผม (personal pronoun)                          |
| He                            | swore  | (at)                       | me   |
| มัน                           | คือ  |                            | ดินสอ (noun)                                   |
| It                            | is   |                            | (a) pencil                                     |
| ผม                            | อยาก   |                            | กินข้าว (clause)                               |
| I                             | would like   |                            | to eat some food                               |

**Note:** In Thai, we do not have articles, a, an, and the.

## Sentence type 1 with preposition

| Subject                       | verb   | Object or Explanation part |  |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| Noun (or)<br>Personal pronoun | action (or) feeling (or)<br>verb to be (เป็น, คือ, อยู่) | preposition                | noun (or) adjective (or) adverb<br>(or) clause |
| เขา                           | ทำงาน  | ที่                        | อังกฤษ (noun)                                  |
| He/She                        | works  | in                         | the UK   |
| เขา                           | มา   | จาก                        | บ้าน (noun)                                    |
| He/She                        | came   | from                       | home   |
| แม่                           | อยู่   | ใน                         | บ้าน (noun)                                    |
| Mum                           | is   | in                         | (the) house                                    |
| ฉัน                           | ไป   | กับ                        | เขา (personal pronoun)                         |
| I                             | went   | with                       | him  |
| เขา                           | กลับ   | ถึง                        | บ้าน (noun)                                    |
| He/She                        | return   | to (arrive)                | home   |
| เขา                           | กลับ   | ไป                         | บ้าน (noun)                                    |
| He/She                        | return   | to (to go)                 | home   |
| เขา                           | กลับ   | มา                         | บ้าน (noun)                                    |
| He/She                        | return   | to (to come)               | home   |

**Note:** Thai prepositions have a different function to English prepositions and can have and use different contexts to English prepositions.

## Sentence type 2: Subject + Adjective

| Subject                       | Verb   | Object or Explanation part |  |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| Noun (or) Personal<br>pronoun | action (or) feeling (or)<br>verb to be (เป็น, คือ, อยู่) | preposition                | noun (or) adjective (or) adverb (or)<br>clause |
| ผม                            |  |                            | ร้อน (adjective)                               |
| I                             | (am)   |                            | hot.   |
| คุณ                           |  |                            | ใจดี (adjective)                               |
| You                           | (are)  |                            | kind.  |
| อากาศ                         |  |                            | ดี (adjective) จัง (adverb)                    |
| Weather                       | (is)   |                            | very good.                                     |
| น้ำ                           |  |                            | เย็น (adjective)                               |
| Water                         | (is)   |                            | cold.  |
| ลม                            |  |                            | แรง (adjective) มาก (adverb)                   |
| Wind                          | (is)   |                            | very strong.                                   |
| วันนี้                        |  |                            | สนุก (adjective)                               |
| Today                         | (is)   |                            | fun.   |
| ผัดไทย                        |  |                            | อร่อย (adjective)                              |
| Pad Thai                      | (is)   |                            | delicious / tasty.                             |

**Sentence type 3: tense word ‘จะ : will : future tense’**

| Subject                          | จะ   | Verb  | Object or Explanation part |  |
|----------------------------------|------|---|----------------------------|--|
|                                  |      |   | prepositio<br>n            | noun (or) adjective (or) adverb (or)<br>clause |
| Noun (or)<br>Personal<br>pronoun | will | action (or) feeling<br>(or) verb to be<br>(เป็น, คือ, อยู่) |                            |  |
| เขา                              | จะ   | ไป  |                            | Supermarket (noun)                             |
| I                                | will | go  |                            | hot.   |
| พี่ของฉัน                        | จะ   | เดิน  | ไป                         | ที่ทำงาน (noun)                                |
| My sister/brother                | will | work  | to (to go)                 | workplace.                                     |
| อากาศ                            | จะ   |   |                            | ดี (adjective) มาก (adverb)                    |
| Weather                          | will | (be)  |                            | very good.                                     |
| น้ำ                              | จะ   |   |                            | เย็น (adjective)                               |
| Water                            | will | (be)  |                            | cold.  |

**Sentence type 4: tense word ‘กำลัง : -ing (right now) : continuous tense’**

| Subject                          | กำลัง                  | Verb  | Object or Explanation part |   |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|
|                                  |                        |   | prepositio<br>n            | noun (or) adjective<br>(or) adverb (or)<br>clause |
| Noun (or)<br>Personal<br>pronoun | -ing                   | action (or)<br>feeling (or) verb<br>to be (เป็น, คือ, |                            |   |
| เด็กๆ                            | กำลัง                  | วิ่ง  |                            |   |
| Children                         | (are) -ing (right now) | run.  |                            |   |
| Children are running.            |                        |   |                            |   |
| เล็ก                             | กำลัง                  | คุย   | กับ                        | หนึ่ง   |
| Lé'k                             | (is) -ing (right now)  | talk  | to                         | Nùeng   |
| Lé'k is talking to Nùeng.        |                        |   |                            |   |
| เรา                              | กำลัง                  | ไป  |                            | โรงเรียน  |
| We                               | (are) -ing (right now) | go  | (to)                       | school.   |
| We are going to school.          |                        |   |                            |   |

**Sentence type 5: tense word ‘กำลังจะ : is going to : future tense’**

| Subject                           | กำลังจะ     | Verb  | Object or Explanation part |   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|---|----------------------------|---|
|                                   |             |   | prepositio<br>n            | noun (or) adjective<br>(or) adverb (or)<br>clause |
| Noun (or)<br>Personal<br>pronoun  | is going to | action (or)<br>feeling (or) verb<br>to be (เป็น, คือ, |                            |   |
| หนึ่ง                             | กำลังจะ     | มาหา  |                            | ฉัน   |
| Nùeng                             | is going to | come to see   |                            | me.   |
| Nùeng is going to come to see me. |             |   |                            |   |

|                                 |              |      |            |            |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------|------------|------------|
| แม่                             | กำลังจะ      | ทำ   |            | กับข้าว    |
| Mum                             | is going to  | make |            | food (main |
| Mum is going to make some food. |              |      |            |            |
| เรา                             | กำลังจะ      | เดิน | ไป         | โรงเรียน   |
| We                              | are going to | walk | to (to go) | school.    |
| We are going to walk to school. |              |      |            |            |

**Sentence type 6:** tense word ‘อยู่ : -ing (right now) : continuous tense’

| Subject                       | Verb   | Object or Explanation part |  | อยู่ |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|------|
| Noun (or)<br>Personal pronoun | action (or) feeling (or)<br>verb to be (เป็น, คือ, อยู่) | prepositio<br>n            | noun (or) adjective (or)<br>adverb (or) clause | -ing |
| ฉัน                           | ทำงาน  |                            |  | อยู่ |
| I (am)                        | work   |                            |  | -ing |
| I am working.                 |  |                            |  |      |
| แม่                           | ทำ   |                            | กับข้าว  | อยู่ |
| Mum (is)                      | make   |                            | food (main course).                            | -ing |
| Mum is making some food.      |  |                            |  |      |
| เรา                           | เดิน   | ไป                         | โรงเรียน                                       | อยู่ |
| We                            | walk   | to (to go)                 | school.  | -ing |
| We are walking to school.     |  |                            |  |      |

**Sentence type 7:** ‘กำลัง = -ing = continuous tense’ and ‘อยู่ = -ing = continuous tense’ in the same sentence, in order to emphasize

| Subject                             | กำลัง                 | Verb  | Object or Explanation part |   | อยู่ |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|----------------------------|---|------|
| Noun (or)<br>Personal<br>pronoun    | -ing                  | action (or)<br>feeling (or) verb<br>to be (เป็น, คือ, | prepositio<br>n            | noun (or) adjective<br>(or) adverb (or)<br>clause | -ing |
| ฉัน                                 | กำลัง                 | ทำงาน   |                            |   | อยู่ |
| I (am)                              | (is) -ing (right now) | work  |                            |   | -ing |
| I am working right now.             |                       |   |                            |   |      |
| แม่                                 | กำลัง                 | ทำ  |                            | กับข้าว   | อยู่ |
| Mum (is)                            | (is) -ing (right now) | make  |                            | food (main  | -ing |
| Mum is making some food right now.  |                       |   |                            |   |      |
| เรา                                 | กำลัง                 | เดิน  | ไป                         | โรงเรียน  | อยู่ |
| We                                  | (are) -ing (right     | walk  | to (to go)                 | school.   | -ing |
| We are walking to school right now. |                       |   |                            |   |      |

**Sentence type 8: tense word ‘อยู่ : -ing (right now) : continuous tense’**

| Subject  | Verb  | Object or Explanation part |   | ได้ | Explanation part         |
|--|---|----------------------------|---|-----|--------------------------|
| Noun (or)<br>Personal pronoun  | action (or)<br>feeling (or) verb<br>to be (เป็น, คือ, | preposition                | noun (or)<br>adjective (or)<br>adverb (or) clause | can | adjective (or)<br>adverb |
| ผม   | พูด   |                            | ภาษาไทย   | ได้ |                          |
| I  | speak   |                            | Thai language                                     | can |                          |
| I can speak Thai language.   |   |                            |   |     |                          |
| ผม   | ทำ  |                            | ผัดไทย  | ได้ |                          |
| I  | make  |                            | Pad Thai  | can |                          |
| I can make Pad Thai.   |   |                            |   |     |                          |
| เขา  | ทำ  |                            | ผัดไทย  | ได้ | เก่ง                     |
| He   | make  |                            | Pad Thai  | can | excellent                |
| He can excellently make Pad Thai. (or) He can make excellent Pad Thai. |   |                            |   |     |                          |
| ลูกของฉัน  | กลับ  | ไป                         | บ้าน  | ได้ | เอง                      |
| My child   | return  | to (to go)                 | home  | can | self                     |
| My child can return home by her/his self.                              |   |                            |   |     |                          |

**Sentence type 9: tense word ‘ได้ : past tense (or) perfect tense’**

| Subject  | ได้                  | Verb   | Object or Explanation part |   |
|--|----------------------|--|----------------------------|---|
| Noun (or)<br>Personal                                      | have<br>(past tense) | action (or) feeling (or)<br>verb to be (เป็น, คือ, | preposition                | noun (or) adjective<br>(or) adverb (or) |
| ผม   | ได้                  | ส่ง  |                            | จดหมาย                                  |
| I  | have                 | sent   |                            | letter                                  |
| I have sent the letter.                                    |                      |  |                            |   |
| ผม   | ได้                  | กิน  |                            | ข้าว                                    |
| I  | have                 | eaten  |                            | food                                    |
| I have eaten some food.                                    |                      |  |                            |   |
| เขา  | ได้                  | ไป   |                            | เยี่ยมยาย                               |
| He   | has                  | been   |                            | to visit grandma                        |
| He has been to visit grandma. (or) He has visited grandma. |                      |  |                            |   |
| ลูกของฉัน  | ได้                  | กลับ   | ไป                         | บ้าน                                    |
| My child   | has                  | returned   | to (to go)                 | home                                    |
| My child has gone back home.                               |                      |  |                            |   |

**Sentence type 10:** tense word 'ได้ : past tense (or) perfect tense'

| Subject  | Verb   | Object or Explanation part |   | แล้ว    |
|--|--|----------------------------|---|---------|
| Noun (or)<br>Personal pronoun                                  | action (or) feeling (or)<br>verb to be (เป็น, คือ, | prepositio<br>n            | noun (or) adjective<br>(or) adverb (or) | already |
| ผม   | ส่ง  |                            | จดหมาย                                  | แล้ว    |
| I  | have sent (or) sent                                |                            | letter                                  | already |
| I have sent the letter. (or) I sent the letter already.        |  |                            |   |         |
| ผม   | กิน  |                            | ข้าว                                    | แล้ว    |
| I  | have eaten (or) eat                                |                            | food                                    | already |
| I have eaten some food. (or) I ate some food already.          |  |                            |   |         |
| เขา  | ไป   |                            | เยี่ยมยาย                               | แล้ว    |
| He   | has been (or) went                                 |                            | to visit grandma                        | already |
| He has been to visit grandma. (or) He visited grandma already. |  |                            |   |         |
| ลูกของฉัน  | ไป   |                            | บ้าน                                    | แล้ว    |
| My child   | has gone (or) went                                 |                            | home                                    | already |
| My child has gone back home. (or) My child went home already.  |  |                            |   |         |

**Sentence type 11:** tense word 'ได้ = past tense (or) perfect tense' and 'แล้ว = already = past tense (or) perfect tense', in the same sentence, in order to emphasize

| Subject                               | ได้                  | Verb  | Object or Explanation part |  | แล้ว    |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---|----------------------------|--|---------|
| Noun (or)<br>Personal pronoun         | have<br>(past tense) | action (or) feeling<br>(or) verb to be<br>(เป็น, คือ, อยู่) | prepositio<br>ion          | noun (or)<br>adjective (or)<br>adverb (or) | already |
| ผม                                    | ได้                  | ส่ง   |                            | จดหมาย                                     | แล้ว    |
| I                                     | have                 | have sent (or) sent   |                            | letter                                     | already |
| I have already sent the letter.       |                      |   |                            |  |         |
| ผม                                    | ได้                  | กิน   |                            | ข้าว                                       | แล้ว    |
| I                                     | have                 | have eaten (or)   |                            | food                                       | already |
| I have already eaten some food.       |                      |   |                            |  |         |
| เขา                                   | ได้                  | ไป  |                            | เยี่ยมยาย                                  | แล้ว    |
| He                                    | have                 | has been (or) went  |                            | to visit grandma                           | already |
| He has already been to visit grandma. |                      |   |                            |  |         |
| ลูกของฉัน                             | ได้                  | ไป  |                            | บ้าน                                       | แล้ว    |
| My child                              | have                 | has gone (or) went  |                            | home                                       | already |
| My child has already gone back home.  |                      |   |                            |  |         |

## How to use Adjectives and Adverbs

### Adjectives and Adverbs

Many languages, including English, distinguish between adjectives, which modify nouns and pronouns, and **adverbs**, which modify **verbs**, adjectives, and other adverbs. Not all languages have exactly this distinction, however, and in many languages (including English) there are words that can function as both. For example, in English *fast* is an adjective in "a fast car" (where it modifies the noun *car*), but an adverb in "he drove fast" (where it modifies the verb *drove*)

In Thai, adjectives always come after nouns and pronouns. Adverbs usually come after verbs, or adjectives, or other adverbs, except adverbs of frequency, such as ‘sometimes’, ‘always’, ‘never’, etc.

| Thai        | คนนั้น             | คนดี               | คนเตี้ย            | น้ำเย็น            | อันนี้                  |
|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| words       | noun<br>+adjective | noun<br>+adjective | noun<br>+adjective | noun<br>+adjective | noun<br>+adjective      |
| Translation | person+that        | person+good        | person+short       | water+cold         | thing/one<br>+this      |
| English     | that person        | good person        | short person       | cold water         | this thing/ this<br>one |

ปากกา + นี้  
pen + this

this pen

ปากกา สีดำ นี้  
pen colour+black this

this black pen

คน + เตี้ย  
person+short

short person

คน + เตี้ย คน + นั้น  
person + short person+that

short person that person

that short person

คน + เตี้ย ที่ กำลัง วิ่ง คน + นั้น  
person+short who/that -ing run person+that

short person who/that -ing run that person

That short person who is running

คน + เตี้ย ที่ กำลัง วิ่ง คน + นั้น เป็น พี่ ของ ฉัน  
person+short who/that -ing run person+that is/am/are elder sis/bro possessive I/me  
short person who/that -ing run that person is elder sis/bro possessive I/me

That short person who is running is my elder sister. (or elder brother)

|             |             |             |                  |               |                 |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Thai        | เดินเร็ว    | กินมาก      | พูดเก่ง          | เร็วมาก       | เกือบทุกวัน     |
| words       | verb+adverb | verb+adverb | verb+adverb      | adverb+adverb | adverb+adverb   |
| Translation | walk+fast   | eat+a lot   | talk+excellently | fast+very     | almost+everyday |
| English     | walk fast   | eat a lot   | talk excellently | very fast     | almost everyday |

เขา เดิน เร็ว  
He walks fast  
He walks fast.

เขา เดิน เร็ว มาก  
He walks fast very  
He walks very fast.

เขา มาหา ฉัน เกือบ ทุกวัน  
He come to see me almost every+day  
He come to see me almost everyday.

In conclusion, natural Thai speaking is very easy. It's simple and straight to the point.

For example, in a restaurant, you want some cold water. A male would start to say 'P'm' or a female would start with '†Chǔn' as a subject of the sentence because you refer to yourself as 'I'. Then you add another word, 'Ao' meaning 'want to take' or 'want to have'. Then, you get a sentence '†Chǔn Ao' but it's not complete yet as you want to indicate you want something, water. So, you add 'Núm' meaning water. This is a sentence, '†Chǔn Ao Núm', but you want to explain what kind of water, so you add 'Ye'n', meaning cold. Now, we get a complete sentence to indicate what you want.

'I want to take / have water cold.'  
'ฉันเอาน้ำเย็น'

Then you might think 'Umm, I want a lot of cold water...' So, you add the word 'Yer', meaning a lot.

I want to take / have water cold lots.  
'ฉันเอาน้ำเย็นเยอะ'

You also want to emphasize the word 'a lot' by repeat the word 'Yer' again.

I want to take / have water cold lots and lots.  
'ฉันเอาน้ำเย็นเยอะๆ'

While you are asking for your water cold lots and lots, you want to clarify you can get it. So, to make a question, it's really easy. In Thai we just add a question word at the end of the sentence. In this context you would want to say 'Can I?' in English, so in Thai it is 'Dâi~Măi?' (Dâi means 'can' and 'Măi?' is a yes / no question word).

I want to take / have water cold lots and lots can yes / no?  
'ฉันเอาน้ำเย็นเยอะๆ ได้ไหม'

Also, do not forget to be polite when you speak Thai. Just add the polite particle '↓Krúb if you are male or ↓Ká if you are female) at the very end of your sentence or speaking.

I want to take / have water cold lots and lots can yes / no? + polite particle  
'ฉันเอาน้ำเย็นเยอะๆ ได้ไหมค่ะ'

As explained, during the lessons, we teach you correct Thai speaking and proper sentences, but you can always make the sentences short and use the context to help clarify what you are talking about like most Thais do.

|                                     | Correct grammar Sentence | Short version |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| For example, Where are you going? = | ‘คุณกำลังไปที่ไหน’       | to ‘ไปไหน’    |
| What are you doing? =               | ‘คุณกำลังทำอะไร’         | to ‘ทำอะไร’   |
| Let’s go.                           | = ‘ไปกันเถอะ’            | to ‘ไปะ’      |

We teach you proper Thai because we would like you to understand the language and to be able think like Thais and then you can learn to shorten the sentences.

*‘ Understand the Thai language and think like Thai people  
to be able to speak Thai confidently’*