

Location of Time

Where does time go in an ASL sentence?

ASL syntax — the order the words go in — is not the same as English.

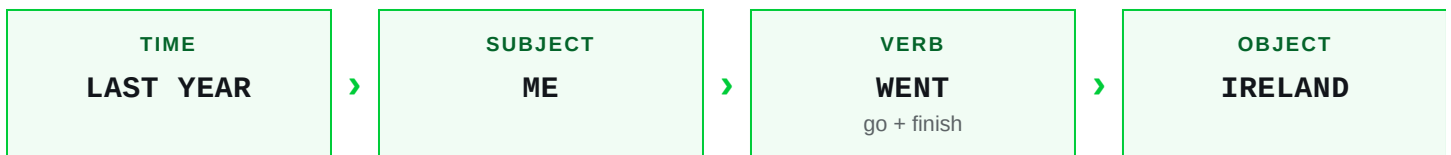
In general ASL follows **subject, then verb, then object**.
Time is the exception: it comes before all of them.

The rule

Time is **always at the beginning** of the sentence. Set it first, then build the rest of the sentence behind it.

Breaking one down

English: I went to Ireland a year ago.



In English the time landed at the end of the sentence. **In ASL it moves to the front, and the rest of the sentence follows in order.**

Practice sentences

On Monday I'll go to school.

MONDAY WILL I GO-TO SCHOOL.

or

MONDAY I GO-TO SCHOOL WILL.

Yesterday I forgot to eat breakfast.

YESTERDAY I FORGOT EAT BREAKFAST.

Two years ago I graduated college.

TWO-YEAR-PAST I GRADUATE COLLEGE.

Your turn

Write three sentences where the English puts the time at the end. Move the time to the front for the ASL version, then label the four slots underneath.

ENGLISH	_____
ASL	_____
ENGLISH	_____
ASL	_____
ENGLISH	_____
ASL	_____