Grammar Explanation

Identifying and fixing problems with word order

- In indirect questions (where the question word is in the middle of the sentence), place the subject immediately after the question word.
  - Incorrect: *The investigators did not discover why did the disaster occur.*
  - Corrected: *The investigators did not find out why the disaster occurred.*

- In direct questions, make sure a verb comes before the subject except when the question word or phrase is the subject (e.g., *Who won yesterday?*).
  - Incorrect: *Which debate she won?*
  - Corrected: *Which debate did she win?*

- When introducing a clause with *not only* or another negative or restrictive expression, put the verb before the subject.
  - Incorrect: *Not only the proposal is helpful for seniors, it benefits children as well.*
  - Corrected: *Not only is the proposal helpful for seniors, it benefits children as well.*

- When describing nouns, place the adjective clause (beginning with *that, which, who, etc.*) or prepositional phrase (a phrase beginning with *by, in, on, etc.*) immediately after the specific noun or noun phrase that it is describing.
  - Example: *For the sociology paper that has been assigned, I chose an article by Helen Lee from the textbook.*

- When describing a verb, do not put an adverb (e.g., *always, quickly*) between the verb and the object.
  - Incorrect: *Middle class Americans do not receive always health insurance.*
  - Corrected: *Middle class Americans do not always receive health insurance.*

Excerpted from: Sentence Structure: Exercise 4