

# VERB PATTERNS

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**[VP I] Sub + be + Subject Complement**

**a) S + BE + N/P**

- × This is a book.
- × His father is a lawyer.
- × It's me.
- × That's mine.

**Interrogative + be + S**

- × Who is he?
- × What age is he?

## **b) S + be + Adjective**

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- × It was dark.
- × The children were exhausted.
- × The children are asleep.
- × Don't be afraid.

## **c) S + be + prepositional group**

- × She is in good health.
- × The machine is out of order.
- × We were all out of breath.
- × We are not yet out of danger.

## **d) S + be + adverbial adjunct**

- × Your friend is here.
- × The train is in.
- × My home is near the station.
- × The plan of the town is on page 23.

## **e) S + be + clause**

- × The trouble is /that all the shops are shut.
- × Everything was / as we had left it.
- × This is / where I work.
- × Is this / what you are looking for?

## **f) S + be + to-infinitive**

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- × This house is / to let.
- × The best is yet / to come.
- × Who is / to be blamed?

## **g) It + be + adjective/noun + to- infinitive**

- × It's / so nice / to sit here with you.
- × It's / a pity / to waste them.
- × It would be / a mistake / to ignore their advice.

## **h) It + be + adj / noun + gerund (phrase)**

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- × It's / so nice / sitting here with you.
- × It's / no good / hoping for the help from the authorities.
- × It's / no good / crying over the spilt milk.

## **i) How/what + adjective/noun + (it+be) + to-infinitive (phrase)**

- × How / nice / (it is ) + to sit here with you!
- × What / a pity / (it is) / to waste them!
- × What / a pity / (it would be ) / to ignore their advice.

## **j) It + be + N/P + Clause**

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- × It was / a pity / that you couldn't come.
- × It's / time / you did some work.
- × It was / a mistake / that you wasted them.

## **k) It + be + adj/N + for + N/P + to-inf (phrase)**

- × It was / hard / for him / to live on his small pension.
- × It is / difficult / for anyone / to be angry with her.

## **l) There + be + sub**

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- × There was a large crowd.
- × There must be a mistake somewhere.
- × There is no doubt about it.

## **m) There + be + sub + adverbial adjunct**

- × There are three windows in this room.
- × There are some problems here.

## [VP 2] a) Sub + Verb Intransitive (Vi)

- × ~~The moon rose.~~
- × It was raining.
- × The sun was shining.

## b) S + Vi + adverbial adjunct

- × She went upstairs.
- × (You) Please come in.
- × His hat blew off.

## c) S + Vi + (for) + adverbial adjunct

- × We/ walked /for/ five miles.
- × We/ waited /for/ half an hour.
- × He/ jumped/ two meters.



## [VP 2 d]

### 1. S + Vi + adjective

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- × The milk turned sour.
- × The dinner smells good.

### 2. S + Vi + Adjectival past participle

- × You look tired.
- × She looks annoyed.

### 3. S + Vi + Noun/reflexive pronoun

- × He died a millionaire.
- × You are not looking yourself today.

## [VP 2 e]

### 1. ~~S + Vi + present participle (phrase)~~

- × The children came running to meet us.
- × The birds came chirping around the window.

## [VP 2f]

### 1. There + Vi + S

- × There entered a strange little man.
- × There followed a long period of silence.

### 2. It + Vi + S ( that-Clause/ Clause/ to-inf phrase)

- × It seemed that the day would never end.
- × It does not matter when we start.
- × It wouldn't have done to turn down his request.

## [VP 3]

a) ~~S + Vi + preposition + N/P/Gerund~~

× You can rely on me.

× He failed in his attempt.

b) S + Vi + preposition + N/P + to-inf  
(phrase)

× She pleaded with me to give up the plan.

× We are waiting for our new car to be delivered.

c) S + Vi + (preposition + it) + clause

× We will see( to it) that she gets home early.

× I am worried (about) how the money was

## [VP 4]S + Vi + to-inf (phrase)

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- × We stopped / to have a rest.
  - × How can I get / to know her?
- b) S + Seem/appear + (to be) + adjective/noun
- × He seemed (to be) surprised at the news.
  - × She seems (to be) very angry.
- c) S + seem/appear/happen/chance + to-inf(phrase)
- × The baby seems / to be asleep.
  - × He appears / to have many friends.

d) It+seem/appear + adj/noun + to-  
inf(phrase)/ gerund (phrase) / clause

- × It seems a mistake to ignore their advice.
- × It doesn't seem/ much good/ going there.
- × It appears /unlikely / that we shall arrive in time.

[VP 5] S + anomalous finite + infinitive  
(phrase)

- × You may / leave now.
- × You mustn't / do that.
- × He didn't dare /tell anyone.

[VP 6] a) S + Verb transitive (Vt) +  
noun/pronoun

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× We all / played / football.

× I have / lost / my bag.

× He / hurt / himself.

b) S + Vt + gerund (phrase)

× She enjoys playing tennis.

× He began talking about his family.

c) S+ need/want etc./+ gerund (phrase) [with  
passive meaning]

× The garden need watering. (to be watered)

× The shoes want mending. (need to be

## [VP 7]

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a) S + Vt + to-inf (phrase)

- × I prefer (not) to start early.
- × It started to rain.
- × He pretended not to see us.

b) S + have/ought + (not) + to-inf (phrase)

- × You will /have /to go.
- × You / ought / (not) to complain.
- × You don't /have/ to go to school on Sundays

[VP 8] S + Vt + interrogative pronoun /  
adverb + to-inf (phrase)

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- × I don't know who to go to for advice.
- × She couldn't decide what to do next.

[VP 9]

S + Vt + that-clause

- × He said that he was busy.
- × She suggested that we should start early.

[VP 10] S + Vt + dependent clause/ question

- × I don't know who he is.
- × I'll find out when the train leaves.



## [VP 11] S + Vt + N/P + that-clause

- × He warned us that the roads were slippery.
- × The workers told their employers that they wanted more money.

## [VP 12]

S + Vt + n/p (indirect object) + n/p(direct object)

- × He handed her the letter.
- × He made me a good offer.
- × He struck the door a heavy blow.
- × He gave me a pen.

## [VP 13]

~~S + Vt + N/P (direct obj.) + to/for + N/P (indirect obj.)~~

- × He gave a pen to me.
- × He handed the letter to her.
- × I have bought chocolates for you.
- × She has made coffee for all of us.

## [VP 14]

a) S + Vt + N/P (direct obj.) + preposition + N/P (phrase)

- × We congratulated him on his success.
- × She reminds me of her mother.

## [VP14]

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b) S + Vt + prep. + N/P + Noun phrase/clause( DO)

- × He spends on books much more than on clothes.
- × He confessed to me that he had fallen asleep during the sleep.

c) S + Vt + it + Prep. + N/P + to-inf.(phrase), that-clause etc.

- × I must leave it to your own judgment to decide whether you should offer your resignation.

## [VP 15]

S + Vt + N/P (DO) + adverb (phrase)

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- × They kept the child indoors.
- × (You ) Please put the milk in the refrigerator.

S + Vt + N/P + Adverbial particle.

- × (You) Put your shoes on.
- × (You) Please bring them in.

S + Vt + adverbial particle + N/P (DO)

- × (You) Put on your shoes.
- × (You) Please bring in those chairs.

S + Vt + Adverbial Particle + noun phrase (DO)

- × (You) Put on your green shoes.
- × He cleared away all the rubbish.

## [VP 16]

S +Vt + N/P (DO) + to-infinitive (phrase)

- × They gave a party to celebrate their success.
- × He opened the door to let the cat out.

S +Vt + N/P(DO) + as/like/for + Noun phrase/  
Clause

- × They hired an expert as their football coach.
- × He carries himself like a teacher.
- × He took extra coaching for his entrance exam.

## [VP 17]

~~S + Vt + N/P + (not) + to-infinitive(phrase)~~

- × I warn you not to believe a word of his.
- × The barrister urged the judge to be merciful.

## [VP 18]

a) S + Vt + N/P + infinitive (phrase)

- × We felt the house shake.
- × They made him run.

b) S + have + N/P + infinitive (phrase)

- × I had an extraordinary thing happen to me.
- × (You) Please have the porter take these suitcases.

## [VP 19]

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S + Vt + N/P + present participle (phrase)

- × They found the baby crying.
- × They saw the thief running away.
- × The teacher found the student dozing in the class.

S + have N/P + present participle

- × We can't have them forcing their views on others.
- × He soon had them all laughing.

## [VP 20]

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S + Vt + N/P + interrogative + to-inf (phrase)

- × I showed them how to do it.
- × (You) Ask him what to do next.
- × They told us where to shop cheaply.

## [VP 21] S + Vt + N/P + Clause

- × I showed them how they should do it.
- × They told us where we could shop cheaply.



## [VP 22]

S + Vt + noun/pronoun/gerund (DO) + adjective

- × We painted the ceiling green.
- × We proved him wrong.
- × I made my meaning clear.

## [VP 23]

a) S + Vt + N /P (DO) + past participle (phrase)

- × They found the window broken.
- × We found the house deserted.

b) S + have/ get + N/P (DO) + past participle (phrase)

- × She had her handbag stolen.
- × He has no money left.
- × Let us get the program changed.

## [VP 24]

a) S+Vt + N/P (DO)+ noun(phrase) as object complement

× They elected him the President of the Society.

× She made the job a success.

b) S + Vt + N /P ( indirect object) + noun (phrase) (subject complement)

× This wool should make me a good sweater.  
(This wool should make a good sweater for me.)

× Shyam made Ram a good friend.

( Shyam has been an excellent friend for

## [VP 25]

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S + Vt + N/P (DO) + (to be) + adj / N  
(phrase)

- ✘ We believe it to be mistake.
- ✘ They felt the plan to be unwise.

S + Vt + it + adj / N + clause /phrase, etc.

- ✘ I consider it wrong to cheat in exams.
- ✘ Everyone thought it foolish to climb the mountain without a guide.

## REFERENCE READINGS :-

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- × Intermediate Grammar, Usage and Composition by M.L.Tickoo and A.E.Subramanian
- × E-Learning:  
<http://nptel.ac.in/courses/109106080/>

Assignment to be given :-

- × Practice exercise for joining the given pairs of sentences into simple sentences