Sentence Pattern 1:

SENTENCE = NOUN (that is a subject) (Adverb) STATIVE VERB
SENT = Ns  ADV  SV

Example: Wǒ hěn lèi.
        I [am] pretty tired.

Examples:
我很累。 Wǒ hěn lèi.
我很忙。 Wǒ hěn máng
我很高興。 Wǒ hěn gāo xìng.
我很悶。 Wǒ hěn mèn.
我很痛！ Wǒ hěn tòng!
他很麻煩！ Tā hěn má fán.
你很討厭！ Nǐ hěn tǎo yàn!

Sentence Pattern 2:

SENTENCE = SENTENCE + ma

Example: Nǐ hěn lèi ma?
        Are you tired?

Examples:
他是美國人嗎？ Tā shì Měi Guó rén ma?
你去吃飯嗎？ Nǐ qù chī fàn ma?
你們不來嗎？ Nǐmen bù lái ma?
他們在家裡嗎？ Tāmen zài jiālǐ ma?
Sentence Pattern 3

SENTENCE = A noun that is a subject, a transitive verb, and a noun that is an object.

SENT = N_s (ADV) TV N_o

Example: Wǒmen mǎi fángzi.
We buy houses.
We buy a house.
我們買房子。

Example: Wǒmen mǎi qì chē.
他們寫字。
老虎吃肉。

Sentence Pattern 4:

A sentence may be formed by a subject plus the word shì plus the name of a set of things.

SENTENCE = N_s shì N_set

Example: Xiǎo Huā shì māo.
Little Flower is a cat.
小花是貓。
Sentence Pattern 5:
A predicate can be formed from an adverb and an immediately following verb, verb and object, etc..

SENTENCE = NOUN\text{subject} \text{ ADVERB PREDICATE}

SENT = N_s \text{ ADV PRED}

Example: Xiao Huá bù shi māo.
Little Flower is not a cat.

Sentence Pattern 6:
Certain nouns preceded by certain stative verbs (which function adjectively) can take the place of simple nouns in many sentences.

NOUN = SV N

Example: hǎo háízi
good child
Sentence Pattern 7:
A sentence can appear in a “multiple choice” format, i.e., the sentence includes a verb in its positive form and follows it with that verb in its negative form, and to answer that question one selects the correct alternative and repeats the sentence with only that verb present.

SENTENCE = Ns PRED negative PRED

Examples:
Tā dà bù dà? Tā bù dà. or Tā hěn dà.
Is he big? He is not big. or He is pretty big.
Tāmen shì bù shì péng yǒu? Tāmen shì péng yǒu. or Tāmen bù shì péng yǒu.
Are they friends? They are friends. or They are not friends.
### Sentence Pattern 8:

The locational 语里
A sentence is formed with a subject + a locational verb +
a noun that names a place
Sentence = Ns LV NOUNloc

### Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>他們有沒有生氣？</td>
<td>Tāmen yǒu méi you shēng qì?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>他是不是你的老師？</td>
<td>Tā shì bùshì nǐde lǎo shī?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>她票(亮)不漂亮?</td>
<td>Tā piào (liàng) bù piào liàng?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>你們昨天在不在家?</td>
<td>Nǐmen zuō tiān zài bù zài jiā?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>誰在門口兒?</td>
<td>Shéi zài mén kǒur?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>你在什麼時候回來?</td>
<td>Nǐ zài shénme shí hòu lái ?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>在我看，你最漂亮！</td>
<td>Zài wǒ kàn, nǐ zuì piào liàng!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sentence Pattern 9:

The locations where people or things are found may be formed by mentioning, e.g., a building, and then adding a determining term such as "inside." So one says, "the barn behind," rather than "behind the barn."

NOUNloc = broad location name + inside, outside, etc.

NOUNloc = NOUNloc + lìtou/wàitou/shàngtou/xiàtou/dǐ xià, etc.

Examples:  fángzì lìtou, fángzì wàitou, fángzì shàngtou,
inside the house, outside the house, on the house,
fángzì xiàtou, fángzì dǐ xià,
at the bottom of the house, under the house,
fángzì qiántou, fángzì hòutou, etc.
in front of the house, at the back of the house, etc.

Example

弟弟不在房子裡頭，他在房子上頭。Dìdi bú zài fángzì lìtou, tā zài fángzì shàngtou.

咪咪不在房子頂上，牠在房子底下。Mīmī bú zài fángzì shàngtou, tā zài fángzì dǐ xià.
Sentence Pattern 10:  

Saying "there are" in Chinese requires mention, or at least implicit reference to, a place or time, and an affirmation that it has a certain person or thing. The full form of this statement is as follows:

SENTENCE = zài location yǒu object  
(In location there is/are [object or objects])

Examples:

(在)教室裡頭有二十個人。  (Zài) jiào shì lǐ tóu yǒu èr shí ge rén.  
在山上沒有人。  Zài shān shàng méi yǒu rén.  
在三點鐘，媽媽已經回來了。  Zài sān diǎn zhōng, Māmā yǐ jīng huí lái le.
Sentence Pattern 11:

A specifier, a number, a measure word, and a noun can stand in for a simple noun. (Either the specifier or the number may be omitted.)

NOUN = SP # MW NOUN

Example:
zhèi sān bēi kā fēi (these three cups of coffee)
sān bēi kā fēi (three cups of coffee)
zhèi bēi kā fēi (this cup of coffee)

Examples:

11

Sentence pattern 12:

Indefinite vs. Definite

Some sentences have indefinite reference, e.g., "Fángzi lǐ tou yǒu yī xiē rén." (There are some people in the house.)

Once those sentences have drawn attention to the formerly indefinite individuals, they become identified in everyone's minds as "the individuals," "these individuals," "those individuals," etc.

Example: Fángzi lǐ tou yǒu yì xiē rén. Nèi xiē rén dōu shì péng yǒu. (In the house there are some people. Those people are all friends.)

Sù shè wài tou yǒu jī ge rén. Nèi xiē rén dōu shì xué shēng. (Outside the dormitory there were several people. Those people are all students.)
Sentence Pattern 13:

A sentence can be formed with a subject plus an intransitive verb.

Sentence = Ns  ITV

Example: Lǎo Shī míng tiān lái. (Teacher is coming tomorrow.)

Examples:

我不去。   Wǒ bù qù.
妹妹還沒有來呢。 Méimei hái méi yǒu lái ne.
我們走吧。   Wǒ men zǒu ba.
不要亂跑！   Bú yào luàn pāo.
Sentence Pattern 15:

A predicate can be composed of a locative verb, the name of a location, and a predicate indicating what is done there.

\[ \text{PRED} = \text{LV} \ N_{lv} \ \text{PRED} \]

example: zài tú shū guān niàn shū
study at the library

Examples:

- 他們常常在家裡唱歌。 Tāmen cháng cháng zài jiā lǐ chàng gē.
- 你們不要在圖書館裡睡覺。 Nǐmen bù yào zài tú shū guǎn lǐ shuì jiào
- 我在二零零三年回來了。 Wǒ zài èr líng líng sān nián huí lái le.

Rule: Set the stage and only then tell the action.

Note: Chinese word order is strongly dominated by the sequence of events in the real world. For instance, causes are mentioned before effects. Where something occurs has to be mentioned before the action moves onto that stage. In English, to the contrary, the information about time and place is frequently put into a tag ending such as, "in 1948," "on the elevator," etc.
Sentence Pattern 16:

Questions and sentences about indefinite items can be formed by using X-words.

nà → nǎ  (that → "which" or "something")
nèi→ něi   (that → "which" or "something")

Examples:

哪国  nà guó rén  people of which country
哪天  nà tiān  which day (when)
哪位  nǎ wèi  which person of status (which honorable lady/gentleman)
哪些  nǎ xiē  which several items

Sentence Pattern 17:

A predicate can be formed by placing a modifying or auxillary verb before the main verb.

PRED = AUX V  PRED

These auxillary verbs have similar meanings. 能 means to be physically able to do something and/or that environmental factors permit doing something. 会 means to have learned how to do something, and 可以 means "permissible," although it is often used to mean "can" in the sense that a possibility for some action or result exists.

example  Rén huì shuō huà  (People know how to talk)
Rén bù néng fēi-. (Humans do not have the physical ability to fly.)
Nǐmen bù ké yǐ zài zhèr chī fàn. (You may not eat here.)
Sentence Pattern 18:
A predicate can be composed of a locative verb, the name of a location, and a predicate indicating what is done there, but a predicate can also be composed of one predicate that indicates something like going somewhere in order to do something, doing something in order to be able to do something else, etc. In English we generally use the word "to" as a link between the first and second predicate, e.g., "He bought a saw to cut the wood," or, "She went to London to see the Queen." In Chinese, however, there typically is no word corresponding to that "to," and the two clauses are simply jammed together.

PRED = PRED_a (to) PRED_b

Example: huí jiā xiūxi
   go home to rest
Sentence Pattern 19:
Anywhere a noun can be used in a sentence it can be replaced by an exclusive or construction (either X or else Y).

\[ \text{NOUN} = \text{NOUN}_a \text{ háishi NOUN}_b \]

Example: Xiǎo wáwa shì nán háizi háishi nǚ háizi?
       Is the baby a boy or a girl?

Examples:
她是你老師還是你的女朋友？Tā shì nǐ de lǎo shī háishi nǐ de nǚ péng yǒu?
你今天想吃雞肉還是牛肉？Nǐ jīn tiān xiǎng chī jī ròu háishi niú ròu?
我不知道那個人是老先生還是年輕人。Wǒ bù zhī dào nà ge rén shì lǎo xiānshēng hái shì qīng rén.

Sentence pattern 20

A sentence can be formed using the special verb compound zhù zài (which means something close to the English expression “resides at”).

\[ \text{SENTENCE} = \text{N}_s \text{ zhù zài N}_{\text{location}} \]

Example: Nèige xuéshēng bù zhù zài sù shè.
       That student does not reside in the dormitory.

Examples:
你住在哪兒？
       Nǐ zhù zài nǎr ér？
我住在宿舍。
       Wǒ zhù zài sù shè.
我不住在宿舍。
       Wǒ bù zhù zài sù shè.
Sentence Pattern 21:

COVERBS:

A coverb is can be a special kind of verb that cooperates with the verb that follows it and acts to give additional information about that verb. Often coverbs cannot be used alone or are rarely used alone. One such coverb, which otherwise appears in resultative verb compounds, is lí. As an active verb it means "to separate from." As a coverb, it means "is separated from" and requires a following stative verb or something indicating a length in space or time and that functions like a stative verb in such sentences.

PRED = COVERB NOUNcoverb PRED

Example: Tú shū guǎn lí xué xiào bù yuǎn.
The library is separated from the school not far.

Sentence Pattern 22:

In the development of the Chinese language its speakers felt a need to flag certain sentences as indicating that there had been a change in the status of events. In English we sometimes do this by prefixing a sentence with the phrase, "It came to pass that..." By sometime around the year 1200, Chinese speakers were doing much the same thing by appending the word "lái" (to come) to sentences. In somewhat the same way that the English phrase, "God be with you" transformed into "goodbye," the terminal "lái" became "le," also losing its tone in the process.

SENTENCE = SENTENCE le

Example: Māma lái le. (There's been a change. Mom is coming!) or (There's been a new development. Mom is here!)
Example: Bàba bù lái le. (There's been a change. Dad is not coming after all.)
Example: Wáwa chī fàn le. (Baby has started eating solid food!) (Some′ a change is "the first time ever."
If nothing happens, do not use 了.

Pattern 23:

Numbers are formed in a very orderly way in Chinese. In high school math we learn to write numbers in the following format:
\[ d \times 1000 + e \times 100 + f \times 10 + g \]

But we say “fifty” instead of “five tens.” Chinese follows the basic mathematical schema shown above:

\[ c \times 10,000 + d \times 1,000 + e \times 100 + f \times 10 + g \]

So, for example, 17,345 is read:

yi wàn qī qiān sān bāi sì shí wǔ.
Sentence Pattern 24:
Chinese uses a logical order or a sentence order that follows the time sequence of events in almost every situation. One such case is the sentence pattern that is used to indicate the actuality and/or the future potentiality to achieve a result. Many of the instances of this pattern are figurative and may seem abstract to English speakers. So it is important to start with an example that may make more sense to the beginning learner of the Chinese language:

VERB = VERB + Resultative VERB

Example: Tāmen chī bāo.
They eat [and so] get full.

The negative form of this sentence, indicating that they did not get enough to eat is:

Example: Tāmen méi (yǒu) chī bāo.
They have not gotten full.

Examples:

她睡著了。  Tā shuì zhào le.
我們還沒吃完呢。 Tā men hái méi chī wán ne.
我沒有看懂。  Wǒ méi yǒu kàn dōng.
那隻貓跑掉了。 Nà zhī māo pǎo diào le.

yi wàn líng wǔ shí  10050
sān shí wàn líng wǔ kuài qián $30,005
yī bǎi yī shí tiān  115 days
yì wàn líng èr bǎi líng sān 10,0203
Sentence Pattern 21a:

As mentioned in Pattern 20, the coverb lí can also be used with the designation of a length of space or time, and that expression functions like a stative verb in such sentences.

PRED = COVERB NOUN\textsubscript{coverb} PRED

Example: Tú shù guān lí zhèr sān gōng lí.
            The library is three kilometers from here.

Examples:

舊金山離北京很遠。 Jiǔ Shān lí Běi Jīng yuǎn.
天津離北京不遠。   Tiān Jīn lí Běi Jīng bù yuǎn.

Sentence Pattern 25

Distances between different places can be compared by making an sentence that follows this pattern:

SENT = (V lí W) bǐ (X lí Y) PRED

Example: Yīng Guó lí Fǎ Guó bǐ Ái ěr lán lí Dé Guó jīn.
            The distance from England to France is (nearer =) less than the distance from Ireland to Germany.
Sentence Pattern 26

Chinese regularly proceeds from the largest unit to the least significant unit, so in giving dates, the year is mentioned first, followed by the month, and then the date. In writing one uses rì for the date, but in speaking one usually says hào.

nián       yuè       rì
nián       yuè       hào

Example: èr líng yì sān nián sì yuè wǔ rì
           2013  April 5

Examples:

她的生日是三月二十七號。 Tāde shēng rì shì sān yuè èr shí qī hào.
他明年十一月五號回國。  Tā míng nián shí yī yuè wǔ hào huí guó.
Sentence Pattern 27

As well as indicating that a given location has certain people or things in it, in Chinese one can also show that a given location has certain people or things in it doing something.

SENTENCE = (zài) LOCATION yǒu NOUNsubject PREDICATE

SENT = (zài) Nlocation yǒu Ns PRED

Example: (Zài) tú shū guǎn wàitou yǒu rén tī zú qiú. Outside the library there are people playing soccer.

Examples:

在宿舍裡有人打牌。Zài sù shè lí yǒu rén dǎ pái.
在圖書館裡沒有人不念書。Zài tú shū guǎn lítou méi yǒu rén bú shuì jiào.
白天沒有人在宿舍裡睡覺。Bái tiān méi yǒu rén zài sù shèli shuì jiào.

Sentence pattern 28

A sentence can be formed with a coverb that introduces a point of origin and a verb that indicates whether the subject’s motion is toward the speaker or not.

SENTENCE = Subject COVERB NOUNorigin VERB

SENT = Ns CV Norigin VERB

Example: Tā cóng Měi Guó lái. S/he comes from America.
Sentence pattern 29

A sentence can be formed with a coverb that introduces a point of origin and a verb that indicates whether the subject’s motion is toward the speaker or not, which is then followed by the action that the subject performs after arrival.

**SENTENCE** = Subject COVERB NOUN$_{\text{origin}}$ VERB (to) PREDICATE

**SENT = N$_s$ CV N$_{\text{origin}}$ VERB (to) PRED

Example: Tā cóng Měi Guó lái niàn shù.
S/he comes from America to study.

Examples:

- 他們每天早上從家裡來買豆漿。 They come from home to buy soybean milk every morning.
- 有的人直接從宿舍來上課。 Some people directly come from the dormitory for class.
- 每一個人從自己的口袋裡拿出一塊錢。 Each person takes out a coin from their pocket.
Sentence Pattern 30

In Chinese, some verbs make function as transitive verbs part of the time and as passive verbs the rest of the time. One example is jiăo, which can mean “to call,” “to yell,” or “to order,” but it can also mean, “to be called,” “to be named.”

Example: Wǒ jiăo Kŏng An Guó.
          I called out to Kŏng An Guó.
          or
          I am called Kŏng An Guó.

Examples:

我叫王孝賢。  Wǒ jiăo Wăng Xiăo Xiăn.
请叫你爸爸出来。  Qìng jiăo nǐ bàba chū lái.
我叫馬思亮。你叫什麼名字?  Wǒ jiăo Mǎ Sī Liăng. Nǐ jiăo shéme míng zi?

Sentence Pattern 31

The Chinese language mentions causes before effects and tools before the effects they cause. One instance of this general rule is to mention modes of conveyance before telling of the journey.

$\text{SENTENCE} = N_{\text{subject}} \text{ COVERB NOUN}_{\text{coverb}} \text{ PREDICATE}$

$\text{SENT} = N_s \text{ CV } N_{cv} \text{ PRED}$

Example: Wŏmen zuò chē qù.
          We go by car.
Examples:

你坐車去嗎?  
我不要坐飛機去。  
他打算坐火車來。  
你不願意坐船到中國去嗎?

Nǐ zuò chē qù mà?  
Wǒ bù yào zuò fěi jī qù.  
Tā dài suàn zuò huǒ chē lái.  
Nǐ bù yuânyì zuò chuán dào Zhōng Guó qù mà?

Pattern 32

In Chinese sentences about going to someplace are parallel in structure to sentences about coming from someplace. (See Pattern 27.)

SENTENCE = NOUN<sub>subject</sub> dào NOUN<sub>destination</sub> lái/qù

SENT = N<sub>s</sub> dào N<sub>destination</sub> lái/qù

Examples:  Tāmen dào xué xiào lái.
            They come to school.
            Tāmen dào tú shū guǎn qù.
            They go to the library.

Examples:

你到哪兒去?  
我到大華飯館去。  
你的孩子已經到這兒來了。

Nǐ dào nǎr qù?
Wǒ dào Dà Huá fàn guǎn qù.
Nǐde háizi yǐ jīng dào zhèr lái le.
Pattern 33

SENTENCE = NOUN<sub>subject</sub> dào NOUN<sub>destination</sub> VERB PREDICATE

SENT = N<sub>s</sub> dào N<sub>destination</sub> VERB PRED

Examples: Tāmen dào xué xiào lái niàn shū
They come to school to study.
Tāmen dào tū shù guǎn qù jiē shū.
They go to the library to borrow books.

Examples:
你到哪兒去吃飯?
Nǐ dào nǎr qù chī fàn?
我到大華飯館去吃飯。
Wǒ dào Dà Huá fàn guǎn qù chī fàn.
你的孩子已經到這兒來買書了。
Nǐde háizi yǐ jīng dào zhèr lái mǎi shū le.

Sentence Pattern 34

Chinese uses a weakened form of a resultative verb, liǎo, to clarify conversations about whether some expected action has actually been done.
As a verb ending, liǎo is pronounced le.

Example: A: Nǐ yǒu méi yǒu chī yào? B: Chīle.
A: Did you take your medicine? B: I did [take it].
Sentence Pattern 35

Coordinated use of le. The verb le flags the fact that someone did do something, and so a change must have occurred. The sentence le flags the fact that a change has occurred, so in cases where a verb le is used it is frequently appropriate to add a sentence le. When an intransitive verb occurs at the end of a sentence, the two le merge into one.

\[
\text{SENTENCE} = \text{NOUN}_{\text{subject}} \ \text{TRANSITIVE VERB} \ \text{le} \ \text{NOUN}_{\text{object}} \ \text{le}
\]

Example: Wǒ chī le yào le
I did take the medicine. (I took the medicine.)
Lǎo bān lái le!
The boss is here!
Sentence Pattern 36

Both the point of origin and the destination can be mentioned in the same sentence. As with other cases, the Chinese language always follows the natural order, so the origin gets mentioned before the destination.

SENTENCE = NOUN_{subject} cong NOUN_{origin} dào NOUN_{destination} lái /qù

SENT = N_s cong N_{origin} dào N_{destination} lái /qù

Example: Māma cóng xué xiào dào yín háng qù.
          Mama went from the school to the bank.

Examples:

他從韓國到中國去。 @141 @641
你從加拿大到中國來。 @151 @651
我們從中國到韓國去。 @161 @661
我從韓國到英國去。 @171 @671

Sentence Pattern 37

An example of the narrative structure embedded in many Chinese sentences is the mention of an action done in preparation for another action followed by the intended action.

The verb 往 means to head oneself in a certain direction. It must be followed by a word meaning to walk, to run, to turn, etc.

SENTENCE = wǎng NOUN_{direction} INTRANSITIVE VERB
SENT = wǎng N_{direction} ITV

Example: Wǎng dōng zǒu.
         (Lit.) Head yourself toward the east and then walk.
Wǎng xī pāo.
         (Lit.) Head yourself toward the west and then run.
Sentence Pattern 38

Trigger events with le. When the trigger event shall have occurred (le) it will then (jiù ) be appropriate to do the next thing.

\[
\text{SENTENCE} = \text{NOUN}_{\text{subject}} \text{ TRANSITIVE VERB } \text{le} \text{ NOUN}_{\text{object}}, \text{ NOUN}_{\text{subject}} \text{ jiù PREDICATE. (If the same subject is used in both clauses, mention it only once.)}
\]

\[
\text{SENT} = N_{s1} \text{ TV le } N_{o} (N_{s2}) \text{ jiù PRED}
\]

Example: Nǐ dào le yín hànɡ, jiù wānɡ dōnɡ guāi .
When you do get to the bank then turn east.
Dào le xué xiào , tā jiù dào lǐ tou qù le.
When he got to school, he then went inside.
Sentence Pattern 39

Narrative structure: A frequent device used in conveying directions is to indicate what is done prior (xiān) to doing something else, and then indicating what is done thereafter (rán hòu). This format works for future actions, plans, etc.

SENTENCE = NOUN\text{subject 1} \ xiān \ PREDICATE, \ rán \ hòu \ (NOUN\text{subject 2}) \ PREDICATE
SENT = N_{s1} \ xiān \ PRED, \ rán \ hòu \ (N_{s2}) \ PRED

Example: Nǐ xiān dào yín háng qù, rán hòu wǎng xī guǎi.
First go to the bank, and after that turn west.

Examples:

Sentence Pattern 40

Two verbs can be used in series to communicate ideas like "ugly" (difficult to look at).

In English it is necessary to separate two predicates with "to", but in Chinese there is no such necessary separator. Expressions like "difficult to look at" can mean "ugly," so "difficult to read" is usually expressed by using 難念 instead of 難看.

PREDICATE = PREDICATE_1 [to] PREDICATE_2
PRED = PRED_1 [to] PRED_2

Example: nán kàn
difficult to look at
Example

這本書很難念。

Sentence pattern 41

One coverb is so often used that it is treated here as forming a sentence pattern in its own right. That coverb is “bǐ,” which means “as compared to.” the subject is compared to some standard known to all parties in the conversation.

Examples:

她比我會開快車。
你比我開得不小心。 @271 @771
我比他們寫得多。 @281 @781

sentence pattern 42

Predicates involving resultative verbs (pattern 24) can be expanded to indicate the potentiality, or lack of it, to achieve the result.

SENTENCE = NOUN\text{subject} \ VERB \ dé/bù \ RESULTATIVE \ VERB
SENT = N_s \ V \ dé/bù \ RV

Example: Tā chī bù bǎo. Wǒ chī dé bǎo.
He cannot eat to satiety. I can get full.
Sentence Pattern 43

Narrative structure is often aided by expressions such as “the man who came to dinner.” If both parties in a discussion know some such fact about a third party, but do not know that person’s name, the commonly held information can substitute for a name.

SENTENCE = NOUN_{subject} shì (PREDICATE de NOUN)
SENT = N_{s} shì (PRED de N)
or
SENTENCE = (PREDICATE de NOUN) PREDICATE
SENT = (PRED de N) PRED

Examples:

Tā yí ding shì zuó tiān láide nèige rén.
He is surely that person who came yesterday.

Zuó tiān láide nèige rén máile xīn qǐ chē le.
Now that person who came yesterday has purchased a new automobile.

Examples:

在房子上頭的貓
Sentence Pattern 44

One special kind of predicate modifier comes after the main verb because it follows the general pattern whereby the natural order of events is mirrored by sentence structure. If, for instance, one speaks and thereby get a good result, that establish the fact that one speaks well. The same statement can record past events or indicate future potentialities. The positive form of these sentences uses a main verb followed by dé and then by a complement that expresses the capacity that has been demonstrated, so these modifiers are called “adverbs of capacity.”

PREDICATE = INTRANSITIVE VERB dé MODIFIER
PRED = ITV dé MOD

Examples:  
Tā shuō dé hǎo.
He speaks well.
Tāmen pāo dé kuài.
They run fast.

Examples:
老人走得很慢。
Sentence Pattern 45

Simply stating that someone sings well may not tell other people very much. Others frequently want to know that someone sings well in comparison to some well-known singer. The basic sentence pattern involved is: $Ns V de2 PRED$. That sequence does not change, but it is supplemented by putting in a coverb, $bi3$:

$$\text{SENTENCE} = \text{NOUN}_{\text{subject}} bi \text{NOUN}_{\text{standard}} \text{PREDICATE}$$
$$\text{SENT} = N_s bi N_{\text{standard}} \text{PRED}$$

Example: Tāmen bǐ mǎ pāo dé kuài

They run faster than horses.

Examples:

他比我說得好。

她比Miriamb Makeba唱得好。@181@681

他比屁股頭開得厲害。@499@999
Sentence Pattern 48

The so-called “shi...de” pattern is another case wherein something already mentioned or obvious from context is habitually omitted. For instance, in a story about the Marx brothers or the Van Trapp family of singers, “Tāmen shì hén yǒu mingde rén,” has a redundant element because everyone in the conversation knows full well that the Marx brothers are humans, and so are the members of the Van Trapp family. But this sentence pattern has two special functions: (1) It is frequently used to correct misinformation voiced by someone else. (2) Its use generally indicates, since somebody can be characterized as, e.g., a graduate of some university, that event must have already happened. So it gives some of the same information that putting a sentence into past tense does in the English language.

This structure has many practical uses. It can indicate a kind of passive idea when, e.g., a book is described as one that that Hemingway wrote, it can be used to give prominence in a sentence to the element that immediately follows 是, and it can give essentially the same information as is given in English by putting the main verb of a sentence in past tense.

SENTENCE = NOUN_subject shì PREDICATE de.
SENT = N_s shì PRED de.

Example: Wǒ bú shì qián tiān láide, wǒ shì zuó tiān lái de.
I did not come the day before yesterday, I came yesterday.
Tā shì dà xué bì yède.
She is a college graduate. (She has graduated from college.)

Examples:
不對。我不是會說日語的，我是會說英語的。
Bú dui. Wǒ bú shì huì shuō Rì yǔ de, wǒ shì huì shuō Yīng yǔ de.
No. I'm not the one who knows how to speak Japanese, I'm the one who knows how to speak English. (= I can't speak Japanese, I speak English.)
Pattern **49** (see Pattern 21)

One of the frequently used coverbs is ḡěi. Literally it means “to give somebody something as a present,” or just “to give,” but it can also be used when one is doing something for somebody as a favor.

SENTENCE = NOUN\text{subject} ḡěi NOUN\text{indirect object} NOUN\text{direct object}  
SENT = N₈ ḡěi N_{ido} N_{do}  

Example:  
Māma ḡěi wǒ xī yīfu.  
Mama washed (my) clothes for me.

**Examples:**

爸爸替他理頭髮。

---

**Sentence Pattern 50**

A sentence involving an adverb of capacity along with a transitive verb and a direct object takes the form

SENTENCE = NOUN\text{subject} TRANSITIVE VERB NOUN\text{direct object}  
TRANSITIVE VERB dé PREDICATE  
SENT = N₈ TV N_{o} TV dé PRED

Example: Tāmen xiě zi xiě dé kuài.  
They write quickly.
Example
我弟弟写字写得很乱。
Wǒ dìdì xiě zì xiě de hěn luàn.
My little brother scribbles badly.

Sentence Pattern 51
Another coverb that is frequently used to make sentences is dui4, which means “to direct oneself toward,” to address (someone).” 對 means to direct oneself toward some object to perform some action, e.g., "She spoke to me," or "They were not very good to their visitors."

SENTENCE = NOUNsubject COVERB NOUNobject PREDICATE
SENT = Ns COVERB No PRED

Example: Jǐng chá dui dà jiā shuō: Qíng mǎ shàng huí jiā qù!
The policeman said to everyone: Please return home immediately!

Example
千萬不要對王老不禮貌！
Qiān wàn bù yào duì Wáng lǎo bù lǐ mào!
For Heaven's sake do not be impolite to Don Wang!
Sentence Pattern 52

A sentence can compare the capabilities of two subjects. The second subject mentioned is generally the better known of the two because it can then serve as a standard for comparison.

\[
\text{SENTENCE} = \text{Noun}_{\text{subject}} \text{ ITV dé bǐ } \text{Noun}_{\text{standard}} \text{ RESULT}
\]
\[
\text{SENT} = N_{\text{s}} \text{ ITV dé bǐ } N_{\text{standard}} \text{ RESULT}
\]

Example: Tā pǎo dé bǐ wǒ kuài.
She runs faster than I do.

Example
他比我說得好。

Sentence Pattern 53

The word yī meaning “to the” in expressions indicating direction from some point is used in many sentences, often in conjunction with zài.

\[
\text{place} = \text{noun}_{\text{reference place}} \text{ yī } \text{noun}_{\text{compass direction}}
\]

Example: Dé Guó zài Fā Guó yī dōng.
Germany is located to the east of France.

Example
他的汽車很貴。三十萬塊錢以上。
校長很老，一定五十歲以上。
屁股頭的IQ不高。一定一分以下。
吃飯以前應該洗手。

Tāde qì chē hěn guì. sān shí wàn yī shàng.
Xiào zhǎng hěn lǎo. yì dīng wǔ shí suì yī shàng.
Pí gǔ tóude IQ bù gāo. yì dīng yī bǎi fèn yī xià.
Chī fàn yǐ qián yīng gāi xǐ shǒu.
sentence pattern 54
Sentence = N, Verb de / bù result NOUNdestination NOUNcomplement
Example: Tā pǎo bù shàng shān lái.
He is unable to run up the mountain (to where we are).

Sentence Pattern 55
Another aspect marker: guo. The aspect marker le coming after a verb gives a positive answer to the implicit question, “Did you do it?” The aspect marker guo coming after a verb gives a positive answer to the implicit question, “Have you done it (within a specified or implicit time period)?”

Example: Nǐ chīguò zǎo fàn ma?
Have you eaten breakfast (today)?
Tāmen qùguò Běi Jī ma?
Have they (ever) been to the North Pole?

Example

你以前看過巴金寫的那本書嗎?
Ni yǐ qián kànguò bā jīn xiěde nà běn shū ma?
誰看過月球的另外一面?
Shéi kànguò yuè qiú de lìng wài yī miàn?
你們聽過非洲音韻沒有?
Nǐmen tīngguò fēi zhōu yīn yuè méi yǒu?
Sentence Pattern 56
Caution can be expressed by sentences that seem redundant in English, having the structure “Because......, therefore......”
SENTENCE = yin wei SENTENCE1, suo yi SENTENCE2
SENT = yin wei SENT1, suo yi SENT2

Example: Yin wei ta bing le, suo yi tamai you lai shang ke.
Because he got sick, (therefore) he did not come to attend class.

Example
Yin wei mama na tian hui bu liao jia, suo yì jiejie ti ta zuo fan.
Yin wei qian bu gou, suo yì womei zhi hao chi bai cai.
Yin wei hei long hui hen lihai, suo yì da jia dou hen pa tamen.

Sentence Pattern 57
Using yi with (be)fore and aft(er) to indicate ideas of time sequence:
Yi qian is, literally, “to the fore,” so it can translated as “before,” and yi hou is, literally, “to the aft,” so it can be translated as “after. These expressions coordinate with zai in the structure of a sentence, and one says the word-for-word equivalent of, “I at eat-the-meal-before wash hands.” These expressions function as movable adverbs, so they may come before or after the subject of the sentence. “Zai” is frequently omitted.

SENTENCE = NOUNsubject (zai) event yi qian/hou PREDICATE
 = (Zai) event yi qian/hou, NOUNsubject PREDICATE
SENT = Ns (zai) event yi qian/hou PRED
 = (Zai) event yi qian/hou, Ns PRED

Example: Ta zai tong xuemen lai yi qian xian zuo le fan.
Zai tong xuemen lai yi qian, ta xian zuo le fan.
He cooked a meal before his schoolmates arrived.
Example

在你回家以前請給你父母打一個電話。

媽媽叫我吃飯以後一定要刷牙。

看了那個電影以後，我覺得很悶。

上車以前要不要買票?

Sentence Pattern:

pattern 58

the “shi...de” sentence pattern can be used to indicate authorship.

sentence = nounsubject shi nounauthor transitive verb de
sent = ns shi nauthor tv de

example: zhè běn shū shì bà jīn xiě de.
           this book is one that ba jin wrote. (this book is by ba jin.)

Example

the 是... 的 structure

她是大學畢業的。

Ta- shì da xue/ bì ye‘de.

She is someone who has graduated from college.
Sentence Pattern 59
(See Pattern 34)

Resultative Verb Compounds (as distinguished from Adverbs of Capacity)

When the implicit question is whether the subject is able to do something at all or not, the predicate takes the form exemplified by 看不得见 or 看不書見. 看 is the action of opening the eyes and attempting to look. 見 is the anticipated result, actually seeing something. If injury to the eyes, an intervening obstacle to vision such as a dense cloud of smoke, etc., prevent vision from occurring, then the Chinese expression is “看不見,” and if vision occurs then the expression is “看不得見.” These items cannot be compared. One either sees or fails to see. How well one sees requires a different formulation.

SENTENCE =
NOUN<sub>subject</sub> VERB<sub>tried</sub> 看/不 看 VERB<sub>expected result</sub> (NOUN<sub>obj</sub>)
SENT = N<sub>s</sub> V<sub>tried</sub> 看/不 看 V<sub>expected result</sub> (N<sub>o</sub>)

Examples:

他看不见.
She is no longer able to see. (Perhaps it has become too dark.)
他看不见妈妈.
He cannot spot his mama. (She must be there somewhere but
他看得见有许多其他的人, that he cannot spot her.)

ExampleVerb phrases of this time set up the implicit (or in some cases explicit) question of whether some specified result follows from a certain action. For instance 看得见 asserts that it is possible or it has indeed proven possible to look and actually perceive something, whereas 看不見 asserts that even though one looks one is unable to perceive. These are called resultative compounds.

他写得漂亮。
Sentence Pattern 60

Money is counted in terms roughly equivalent to dollars, dimes, and pennies. (in some economies dimes and pennies would have so little value that they are no longer used.) The formal dollar unit is yuán, and the informal dollar unit is kuài. The formal dime unit is jiǎo, and the informal dime unit is máo. “Qián” means “money.”

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{amount} & = j \text{ yuán} \quad k \text{ jiǎo} \quad l \text{ fēn qián} \\
& = j \text{ kuài} \quad k \text{ máo} \quad l \text{ fēn qián}
\end{align*}
\]

Example:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{sān yuán} & \quad \text{wǔ jiǎo} \quad \text{qī fēn qián} \\
\text{sān kuài} & \quad \text{wǔ máo} \quad \text{qī fēn qián}
\end{align*}
\]

three dollars five dimes seven cents money
three dollars and fifty-seven cents

Example

Sentence Pattern: 61

Purchasing rice by the dollar, not by the number of grains.
Frequently when people go to buy things like flour, candy, etc. that are not pre-packaged, they will be asked, “How much cheese do you want?” and they may say something like, “Give me three dollars worth of cheese.”

NOUN = amount de NOUN

Example:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Wǒ mǎi zhǐ.} & \quad \text{I buy paper.} \\
\text{Nǐ mǎi duō shǎo qián de zhǐ?} & \quad \text{You buy how much paper?} \\
\text{Wǒ mǎi wǔ kuài qián de zhǐ.} & \quad \text{I buy five dollars worth.}
\end{align*}
\]
Example
他天天看一個鐘頭的書嗎？

Sentence Pattern 62

The coverb gēn is used to form sentences indicating that two or more things are the same. The expression for “the same” is “yí yàng.” It functions as a stative verb. Saying, “tāmen yí yàng,” asserts that they are all the same. Anything that is already known can serve as the standard by which new things are defined.

SENTENCE = NOUN<sub>subject</sub> gēn NOUN<sub>standard</sub> yí yàng
SENT = N<sub>s</sub> gēn N<sub>standard</sub> yí yàng

Example: Tā gēn Kǒng Zǐ yí yàng.
She is just like Confucius.

Example.
你跟我哥哥完全一樣。
Ni^ gen- wo^ ge-ge wan/ quan/ yi/ yang`.
You are just like my elder brother
Sentence Pattern 63

\texttt{the} \textit{是... 的} \texttt{structure}

她是一所大学毕业的。

Ta- shi` da` xue/ bi` ye`de.

She is someone who has graduated from college.

This structure has many practical uses. It can indicate a kind of passive idea when, e.g., a book is described as one that that Hemingway wrote, it can be used to give prominence in a sentence to the element that immediately follows \textit{是}, and it can give essentially the same information as is given in English by putting the main verb of a sentence in past tense.

Example

Sentence Pattern 64

Just as candy can be measured by the dollar, work can be measured by length of time.

\[ \text{NOUN}_{\text{object}} = \text{time de NOUN}_{\text{object}} \]

\[ N_0 = \text{time de } N_0 \]

Example: Tā měi tiān kàn yīgè zhōngtou de shū.

Every day he reads an hours worth of books.
Example

Sentence Pattern 65

Chinese answers questions like, “What on earth happened to your bicycle?” by using the coverb bèi. It is just an accident that this word sounds a little like “by.” The sentence structure amounts to something like: “My bicycle by little brother was wrecked.”

\[
\text{SENTENCE} = \text{NOUN}_{\text{focus}} \text{ bèi} \text{ NOUN}_{\text{actor}} \text{ PREDICATE} \\
\text{SENT} = \text{N}_{\text{focus}} \text{ bèi} \text{ NOUN}_{\text{actor}} \text{ PRED}
\]

Example: Wǒde zì xíng chē bèi Dìdì qí huài le.
My bicycle by my little brother was ridden to destruction.
(My bicycle got wrecked by my little brother.)
Sentence Pattern 66

Words such as shei2, she2me, ji3ge, duo1 shao3 are called X words because they can either be used to ask questions, or they can stand for indeterminate or indefinite objects. “Ta1 you3 ji3ge peng2 you3” can be a question, “How many friends does he have?” or it can be a statement, “He has several friends.”

Example: Na4 ji3ge ren2 zuo2 tian1 hui2 Zhong1 Guo2 qu4 le.
Those several people returned to China yesterday.
Sentence Pattern 67

Two individuals or groups may be the same in one respect, e.g., two people may be equally tall. The verb yí yàng and the stative verb describing the respect in which people or things are the same form a complex verb. When a simple subject is involved the pattern is:

\[
\text{SENTENCE: } \text{NOUN}_{\text{subject}} \ yí \ yàng \ \text{STATIVE VERB} \\
\text{SENT} = N_s \ yí \ yàng \ SV
\]

Example: Tāmen yí yàng cōng míng.
They are equally intelligent.

If two individuals or groups are mentioned, the pattern is similar to #58:

\[
\text{SENTENCE} = \text{NOUN}_{\text{subject}} \ gēn \ \text{NOUN}_{\text{standard}} \ yí \ yàng \ \text{PREDICATE} \\
\text{SENT} = N_s \ gēn \ N_{\text{standard}} \ yí \ yàng \ \text{PRED}
\]

Example: Tā gēn wǒ yí yàng xī huǎn nǐ.
He likes you as much as I do.

Sentence Pattern 68

In English, people sometimes say things like, “I have as much intelligence as she does.” There is a close parallel in Chinese that is more often used:

\[
\text{SENTENCE} = \text{NOUN}_{\text{subject}} \ yǒu \ \text{NOUN}_{\text{standard}} \ nème \ \text{PREDICATE} \\
\text{SENT} = N_s \ yǒu \ N_{\text{standard}} \ nème \ \text{PRED}
\]

Example: Tā méi yǒu Kǒng Zǐ nème cōng míng
He does not have as much intelligence as did Confucius.
Example

Sentence Pattern 69

A special movable adverb is formed using yǐ (to the) and wài (outside). It tells of something being eliminated from one place and being put in another so that it loses connection with its original background. The phrase “yǐ wài” coordinates with the expression “chú le,” which literally means “to weed out” or “to excise.” So “chúle XYZ yǐ wài” means something like “removing XYZ from consideration and looking at the things outside of it or other than it.”

SENTENCE = chúle NOUN_{target} yǐ wài, SENTENCE
SENT = chúle N_{target} yǐ wài SENT

Example: Chúle Bàba yǐ wài, wǒmen dōu hěn hài pà
Except for Papa, we were all very frightened.

Example

Sentence Pattern 70

SENTENCE = NOUN_{subject} bǎ NOUN_{object} PREDICATE
SENT = N_{s} bǎ N_{o} PRED.

Example: Dìdi bǎ wòde táng dōu chǐ guāng le
Little brother got my candy and ate it all up
Sentence Pattern 71

When verbs are qualified with regard to the mental attitude with which the actions are performed, the grammatical device is an adverb of manner. Adverbs normally are placed immediately before verbs, and adverbs of manner are not an exception to that rule. However, they are different from other adverbs in that they are reduplicated and often followed by another syllable, -er. They are joined to the following verb with the particle de.

\[
\text{ADVERB}_{\text{manner}} = \text{STATIVE VERB}_a \text{ STATIVE VERB}_a \text{-ér de}
\]

\[
\text{ADV}_{\text{manner}} = \text{SV}_a \text{ SV}_a \text{ ér de}
\]

Example:  
Qǐng nǐ hǎo hǎo ér de xiě zì.  
Please write your characters nicely.

Qǐng nǐ kuài kuài ér de huí jiā qù.  
Please return home quickly.
Sentence Pattern 72

Sentences with indirect objects

SENTENCE $= N_s \ TV \ N_{ido} \ N_{do}$

Example: Tāmen gěi wǒmen sān běn shū.
          They are giving us three books.

Example

Sentence Pattern 73

Time accreted to an activity

SENT $= N_s \ TV \ N_o \ you3 \ NOUN_{time \ period}$

Tā niàn shū yǒu sānge zhōngtou (le)

He has put three hours into reading (as of now).

Example
Sentence Pattern 74

The more it rains the more it pours, etc.
SENTENCE = NOUN_{subject}\ yue4 \ PRED_a\ yue4 \ PRED_b

Example:  Tā yuè niàn shū yuè kùn.
          The more he studied the sleepier he got.

Sentence Pattern 75

SENT = lián \ n\ yě/dōu \ PRED

Example:  Lián bái lāo shī dōu shuō è wén hěn nán.
Sentence Pattern 76

SENT = (Ns) lián n₀ (Ns) yě/dōu PRED

eample: Bái lǎo shī lián Bái Gōng dōu qùguo.
        Lián Bái Gōng Bái lǎo shī dōu qùguo.

Example

Sentence Pattern 77

SENTENCE = Nₛ VERB zhe N₀

Example: Pingzi shàng xiēzhe “Sān wǎn bú guò gāng · ”
        On the bottle was written: "Three bowls and you won't make it
        over the mountain ridge.

Example
Sentence Pattern 78
At the moment, during this time period (the lunch hour, etc.)
adv = zhèng zài

Example

Sentence Pattern 79
SENTENCE = SENTENCE + ba

Example

Sentence Pattern 80
SENT = Ns TV No TV de2 gen1 Nstandard yi2 yang4 PRED
Example: Tā kāi chē kāide gēn wǒ didi yí yàng zǎo gāo.
Example

Sentence Pattern 81

SENT = Ns TV No TV dé yǒu Nstandard nème PRED.

Example: Lǎo shī xié xiǎo shuō xiē dé yǒu Bā Jīn nème duō.

Extension of a previous pattern

Example

Sentence Pattern 82

Resultative verbs when the second element has a negative

Example: Tāmen pǎo dé bú kuài.

Extension of a previous pattern
Sentence Pattern 83

More complex predicates like fēi shàng lái ...... fēi huí shānshāng lái.

Extension of a previous pattern

Example

Sentence Pattern 84

Coverb = néng, huì, kě yǐ -- need to differentiate these words

Example
Sentence Pattern 85

zài4 LOCATION de NOUN

and, e.g., zài fángzi lǐ tou de rén.

Example

Sentence Pattern 86

None other than X did it too.

SENTENCE = Jiùshi Ns yé PREDICATE

Example
Sentence Pattern 87

Whoever wants to:
SENTENCE = Shéi yào PREDICATEa, shéi jiù PREDICATEa

Example

Sentence Pattern 88

Giving free rein:
Sentence = NOUNsubject yào PREDICATEa jiù PREDICATEa

Example

Sentence Pattern 89

VERB = VERB + qǐ lái

Example: Wǒ xiǎng qǐ lái le!
Example

Sentence Pattern 90

SENTENCE = Ns ADVmanner PRED

Example: Tā shǎo gěile yī kuài qián.  
Tā kuàikuárde pǎo huí jiā qù le.

Example

Sentence Pattern 91

One thing or the other, no third choice

SENTENCE = Bú shì (item 1) jiù shì (item 2)

Example: Bú shì wǒ dào tā jiā qù chī fàn, jiù shì tā dào wǒ jiā lái dǎ pái.
Sentence Pattern  92

SENTENCE = VERB lái VERB qù (kěshí /yě) méi yǒu PREDICATE

Example: Tāmen yì zhí pāo lái pāo qù, kěshí méi yǒu zhǎo dào dìdì.

Sentence Pattern 93

Concessive intrusion in sentence = VERB shì VERB, kěshí PRED

Example: Zhèi liàng qì chē, hǎo shì hǎo, kěshí hěn màn.
Sentence Pattern 94

ADV = yī (meaning “immediately upon”)

Example: Nǐ yí gào sū nǐ didi, tā jiù gēn wǒ shuō le.

Example

Sentence Pattern 95

ADVERB = yī (meaning the entire)

Example: Tā bǐ yè le, wǒmen yì jiā dōu hǎo le

Example