Sentence Pattern 1:

SENTENCE = NOUN (that is a subject) (Adverb) STATIVE VERB
SENT = N  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 mēn.
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 jiā lǐ 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 mài qì chē.
      他們寫字。
      Láo hǔ chī ròu.

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。
Example

Example sentences:

- 他們是誰？ Tāmen shì shéi?
- 他們是老師嗎？ Tāmen shì lǎo shī ma?
- 他們是朋友嗎？ Tāmen shì péng yǒu ma?
- 他們都是朋友。 Tāmen dōu shì péng yǒu.

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\text{subject} ADV PRED

Example:

- Xiǎo Huā bù shì māo.
  - Little Flower is not a cat.

Examples:

- 我們昨天來了。 Wǒmen zuó tiān lái le.
- 他們已經在。 Tāmen yǐ jīng zài.
- 我們還沒走。 Wǒmen hái méi zǒu.
- 他們已經走了。 Tāmen yǐ jīng zǒu le.
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 háizi
        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 bú 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 bùshì péng yǒu.
Are they friends? They are friends. or They are not friends.
**Sentence Pattern 8:**

The locational zerb zài

A sentence is formed with a subject + a locational verb + a noun that names a place

Sentence = $N_s \text{ LV NOUN}_{loc}$

### 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 bù shì de lǎo shī?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>她漂亮(亮)不漂亮？</td>
<td>Tā piào (liàng) bú piào liàng?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>你們昨天在不在家？</td>
<td>Nǐmen zuó 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 shén me 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 + lítou/wàitou/shàngtou/xiàtou/dī xià, etc.

Examples:  fāngzi lítou, fāngzi wàitou, fāngzi shàngtou, inside the house, outside the house, on the house,
fāngzi xiàtou, fāngzi dī xià,  at the bottom of the house, under the house,
fāngzi qiántou, fāngzi 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。Dìdì bù zài fāngzi lítou, tā zài fāngzi shàngtou.
猫咪不在房子上頭，它在房子底下。Mèimèi bù zài fāngzi shàngtou, tā zài fāngzi dī 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:

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

Examples:

(在)教室裡頭有二十個人。 (Zài) jiào shì lǐ tóu yǒu èr shí gé 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.)

\[
\text{NOUN} = \text{SP # MW NOUN}
\]

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)
Sentence pattern 12:

Indefinite vs. Definite

Some sentences have indefinite reference, e.g., "Fángzi lǐ tóu yǒu yī xiě 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 tóu yǒu yī xiě rén. Nèi xiě rén dōu shì péng yǒu. (In the house there are some people. Those people are all friends.)

Sù shè wàitou yǒu jīge rén. Nèi xiě rén dōu shì xué shēng. (Outside the dormitory there were several people. Those people are all students.)

Example:

在房子前頭站著五個人。那些人都找不到工作。
在中山國小有七個老師。他們都是女老師嗎?

Zài fángzi qián tóu zhàn zhéng wǔ gé rén. nà xiē rén dōu zhǎo bù dào gōng zuò.
Zài zhōng shān guó xiǎo yǒu qī gé lǎo shī. tāmen dōu shì nǚ lǎo shī ma?
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.)

Sentence Pattern 14:

SENTENCE = SENTENCE 吧

你去吧。

Adding 吧 at the end of a sentence changes a command or a flat statement into a suggestion.
Sentence Pattern 15:

A noun expression can be formed by a modifying phrase or clause linked to the original (unmodified) noun using **de**.

NOUN = modifier de NOUN

Examples:
- qù de rén           (people who go)
- lái de rén           (people who came)
- bú qù de rén        (people who are not going)
- méi yǒu lái de rén    (people who did not come)
- zuó tián lái de rén  (people who came yesterday)
- bú zài de rén        (people who are not present)

Examples:
- 不去的人很多。        Bù qùde rén hěn duō.
- 我很懷疑那些不去的人。   Wǒ hěn huái yí nà xiē bù qùde rén.
- 不去的人在哪兒？     Bù qùde rén zài` nǎr?
- 馬光在那些不去的人裡面嗎？ Mǎ Guāng zài nà xiē bù qùde rén lǐ miàn ma?
Sentence Pattern 16:

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

\[ \text{PRED} = \text{LV} \ \text{N}_v \ \text{PRED} \]

eample:  zài tú shū guǎn niàn shù
study at the library

Examples:

他們常常在家裡唱歌。  Tāmen chăng chăng zài jiālǐ chàng gē.
you们不要在圖書館裡睡覺。  Nǐmen bú yào zài túshū guǎnlǐ 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 17:

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>哪国人</td>
<td>people of which country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>哪天</td>
<td>which day (when)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>哪位</td>
<td>which person of status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>哪些</td>
<td>which several items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sentence Pattern 18:

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 yí zài zhèr chī fàn. (You may not eat here.)
Sentence Pattern 19:
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 xiūxī
              go home to rest

Examples:
她會說中國話。                Tā huì shuō Zhōng Guó hua`.
他老了，不能走路了。          Tā lǎo le, bù néng zǒu lù le.
你這樣作是不可以的。         Nǐ zhèi yàng zuò shì bù ké yíde.
Sentence Pattern 20:
Anywhere a noun can be used in a sentence it can be replaced by an exclusive or construction (either X or else Y).

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

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 hái shì nǐ de nǚ péng yǒu?
你今天想吃雞肉還是牛肉？Nǐ jīn tiān xiǎng chī jī ròu hái shì 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 xiǎnshēng hái shì qīng rén.

Sentence pattern 21

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

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

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

Examples:
你住在哪兒？
I live in the dormitory.
我不住在宿舍。

Sentence Pattern 22:
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

d example:  Tú shū guăn lí xué xiào bù yuǎn.
The library is separated from the school not far.

Examples:
旧金山离北京很远。  Jiù Jīn Shān lǐ Běi Jīng hén yuǎn.
我家离你家不远。  Wǒ jiā lǐ nǐ jiā bù yuǎn.
水星离土星很远。  Shuǐ Xīng lǐ Tǔ Xīng hén yuǎn.
Sentence Pattern 23:
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!) (Sometimes a change is "the first time ever.")

If nothing happens, do not use 了。
Pattern 24:

Numbers are formed in a very orderly way in Chinese. In high school math we learn to write numbers in the following format:
\[ d \, (1000) + e \, (100) + f \, (10) + g \]
But we say “fifty” instead of “five tens.” Chinese follows the basic mathematical schema shown above:
\[ c \, (10,000) + d \, (1,000) + e \, (100) + f \, (10) + g \]
\[ c \, (wàn) + d \, (qiān) + e \, (bǎi) + f \, (shí) + g \]

So, for example, 17,345 is read:

yi wàn qi qiān sān bāi shí wǔ.
Sentence Pattern 25:
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:

\[ \text{VERB} = \text{VERB} + \text{Resultative VERB} \]

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.

Sentence Pattern 26:
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.

\[ \text{PRED} = \text{COVERB NOUN} \]

Example: Tú shū guǎn lí zhèr sān gōng lǐ
The library is three kilometers from here.
Examples:

Jiù Jīn Shān lí Běi Jīng yuǎn.

Sentence Pattern 27
Distances between different places can be compared by making an sentence that follows this pattern:

\[ \text{SENT} = (V \text{ lí} W) \text{ bǐ} (X \text{ lí} Y) \text{ PRED} \]

Example: Yīng Guó lí Fǎ Guó bǐ Āi ēr lán lí Dé Guó jīn.
The distance from England to France is (nearer =) less than the distance from Ireland to Germany.

Examples:

Jiù Jīn Shān lí Běi Jīng bù yuǎn.
Sentence Pattern 28

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 里 for the date, but in speaking one usually says 好.

nián       yuè       rì
nián       yuè       好

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

Examples:

她的生日是三月二十七号。 Tāde shēng rì shì sān yuè èr shí qī hào.
他明年十一月五号回国。 Tā míng nián shí yī yuè wǔ hào huí guó .

Sentence Pattern 29

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 tí zú qiú.
          Outside the library there are people playing soccer.
Sentence pattern 30

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.

\[
\text{SENTENCE} = \text{Subject COVERB NOUN}_{\text{origin}} \text{ VERB}
\]

\[
\text{SENT} = \text{N}_s \text{ CV N}_{\text{orgin}} \text{ VERB}
\]

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

Examples:

他们從韓國來了。 Tāmen cóng Hán Guó lái le.
我明天不從家裡來。 Wǒ míng tiān bù cóng jiā lǐ lái.
我明天從我朋友的家裡來。 Wǒ míng tiān cóng wǒ péng yǒu de jiā lǐ lái.
Sentence pattern 31

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.

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

\[
\text{SENT} = N_s \ \text{CV} \ N_{\text{origin}} \ \text{VERB (to) PRED}
\]

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

Examples:

他们每天早上从家里来买豆浆。  
有的人直接从宿舍来上课。  
每一个人从自己的口袋里拿出一块钱。

Tāmen měi tiān zǎoshàng cóng jiālǐ lái mài dōu jiāng.  
Youde rèn zhí jiē cóng sù shě lái shàng kè.  
Mei yīge rèn cóng zì jíde kǒu dài lǐ ná chū yī kuăi qián.

Sentence Pattern 32

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 jiào, which can mean “to call,” “to yell,” or “to order,” but it can also mean, “to be called,” “to be named.”

Example:  Wǒ jiào Kǒng An Guó.  
I called out to Kǒng An Guó. 
or  
I am called Kǒng An Guó.
Sentence Pattern 33

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.

SENTENCE = N_{subject} COVERB NOUN_{coverb} PREDICATE

SENT = N_{s} CV N_{cv} PRED

Example: Wǒmen zuò chē qù.
We go by car.

Examples:

你坐車去嗎? Nǐ zuò chē qù ma?
我不要坐飛機去。 Wǒ bù yào zuò fēijī qù.
他打算坐火車來。 Tā dǎ suàn zuò huǒchē lái.
你不願意坐船到中國去嗎? Nǐ bù yuànyì zuò chuán dào Zhōng Guó qù ma?
Pattern 34

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

\[
\text{SENTENCE} = \text{NOUN}_{\text{subject}} \text{ dào NOUN}_{\text{destination}} \text{ lái/qù}
\]

\[
\text{SENT} = N_s \text{ dào N}_{\text{destination}} \text{ lái/qù}
\]

Examples:

They come to school.

They go to the library.

Examples:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Nǐ dào nǎr qù?} & \quad \text{Wǒ dào Dà Huá fàn guǎn qù.} \\
\text{Nǐ de hái zi yī jīng dào zhèr lái le.}
\end{align*}
\]

Pattern 35

\[
\text{SENTENCE} = \text{NOUN}_{\text{subject}} \text{ dào NOUN}_{\text{destination}} \text{ VERB PREDICATE}
\]

\[
\text{SENT} = N_s \text{ dào N}_{\text{destination}} \text{ VERB PRED}
\]

Examples:

They come to school to study.

They go to the library to borrow books.
Examples:

你到哪兒去吃飯？
我到大華飯館去吃飯。
你的孩子已經到這兒來買書了。

Nǐ dào nǎr qù chī fàn?
Wǒ dào Dà Huá fàn guǎn qù chī fàn.
Nǐde háizi yǐ jīng dào zhèr lái mǎi shū le.

Sentence Pattern 36

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.

A: Did you take your medicine? B: I did [take it].

Examples:

我還沒有吃飯，你吃了沒有？
我已經寫了信，你呢？
你不能進來！為什麼？我已經給了錢了！
他已經吃了藥。@411 @911
奶奶昨天來了，你不知道嗎？989
真理已經沒有錢了。@421 @921
你生氣了！怎麼搞得？979
Sentence Pattern 37

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.

SENTENCE = 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 37a

A sentence terminal le indicates that a possible change has now occurred. In other words, a sentence that previously was not true has now become true. For instance, the following statement is not true, but someday it might become true: "The first human being has set foot on the planet Mars." When the adverbial expression yǐ jīng is used in a sentence, a sentence terminal le is generally obligatory because saying "already" indicates that some change must have occurred.

\text{SENT} = \text{SENT le}

Example: Wǒ bì yè le.
I have graduated.
Tā bù shì xiǎo háizi le, tā yǐ jīng shì dà rén le.
He is not a child anymore, he has already become an adult.
Sentence Pattern 37b

A verb final -le indicates that the subject of the sentence did do something. (Such sentences generally can be construed as answers to a question of the form, "Did you do [the expected action]?") For instance, a parent might ask the children, "Did you all eat your brussels sprouts yet?")

**VERB = VERB-le**

example: Nǐmen chǐle bó cài méi yǒu?
Have you eaten your spinach?
Chǐle.
[We] did.

Example

Sentence Pattern 38

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} cóng NOUN_{origin} dào NOUN_{destination} lái /qù**

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

Example: Māma cóng xué xiào dào yín háng qù.
Mama went from the school to the bank.
Sentence Pattern 30

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 = ʷᵃⁿᵍ  NOUN<sub>direction</sub> INTRANSITIVE VERB
SENT = ʷᵃⁿᵍ  N<sub>direction</sub> ITV

Example: ʷᵃⁿᵍ ᵈᵒⁿᵍ ᶻᵒᵘ.
(Lit.) Head yourself toward the east and then walk.
ʷᵃⁿᵍ ₓⁱ ᵖᵃᵒ.
(Lit.) Head yourself toward the west and then run.

Examples:

一直往前走。 @191 @691
往回走。 @201 @701
往東拐。 @211 @711
往上飛。 @221 @721
Sentence Pattern 40

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

SENTENCE = NOUN_subject TRANSITIVE VERB le NOUN_object, NOUN_subject jiù PREDICATE. (If the same subject is used in both clauses, mention it only once.)

SENT = N₁ TV le N₀ (N₂) jiù PRED

Example: Nǐ dào le yín hàng, jiù wǎng dōng guǎi.
When you do get to the bank then turn east.
Dào le xué xiào, tā jiù dào lí tou qù le.
When he got to school, he then went inside.

Sentence Pattern 41

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_subject ₁ xiān PREDICATE, rán hòu (NOUN_subject ₂) PREDICATE
SENT = N₁ xiān PRED, rán hòu (N₂) 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 42

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.

\[ \text{PREDICATE} = \text{PREDICATE}_1 \ [\text{to}] \ \text{PREDICATE}_2 \]
\[ \text{PRED} = \text{PRED}_1 \ [\text{to}] \ \text{PRED}_2 \]

Example: nán kàn
   difficult to look at

Example

這本書很難念。
Sentence pattern 43

One coverb is so often used that it is treated here as forming a sentence pattern in its own right. That coverb is “bì,” 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 44

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

SENTENCE = NOUN_{subject} VERB dé/bù RESULTATIVE VERB
SENT = N, V dé/bù RV

Example: 他吃不飽。 Wǒ chī dé bāo.
He cannot eat to satiety. I can get full.

Examples:

老人走得很慢。
Sentence Pattern 45

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.

\[
\text{SENTENCE} = \text{NOUN}_{\text{subject}} \, \text{shì} \, (\text{PREDICATE de NOUN}) \\
\text{SENT} = N_s \, \text{shì} \, (\text{PRED de N}) \\
or \\
\text{SENTENCE} = (\text{PREDICATE de NOUN}) \, (\text{PREDICATE de NOUN}) \\
\text{SENT} = (\text{PRED de N}) \, \text{PRED}
\]

Examples:

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

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

Examples:

在房子上頭的貓
Sentence Pattern 46

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.”

\[
PREDICATE = \text{INTRANSITIVE VERB} \; \text{dé} \; \text{MODIFIER} \\
PRED = \text{ITV} \; \text{dé} \; \text{MOD}
\]

Examples:

- 他 shuō dé hǎo.
  He speaks well.
- 他 men pǎo dé kuài.
  They run fast.
Sentence Pattern 47

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: \( N_s \ V \ de2 \ PRED \). That sequence does not change, but it is supplemented by putting in a coverb, \( \text{bi3} \):

\[
\text{SENTENCE} = N\text{OUN}_{\text{subject}} \text{ bi NOUN}_{\text{standard}} \text{ PREDICATE}
\]

\[
\text{SENT} = N_s \text{ bi N}_{\text{standard}} \text{ PRED}
\]

Example: Tāmen bǐ mǎ páo dé kuài
They run faster than horses.

Examples:

他比我說得好。

她比Miri Am Makeba唱得好。@181@681

他比回股頭闊得厲害。@499@999
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 hěn yǒu míngde 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.)

Structure note:

These sentences always leave out a redundant part, the noun after the 的 at the end of the sentence. For instance:

船上的那些人都是從法國來的 <人>。
Similarly, it would not be idiomatically correct to say:
Those people are <people> from France.
Examples:
不對。我不是會說日語的，我是會說英語的。
Bú duì. 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 ɡěi. 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 = NOUNsubject ɡěi NOUNindirect object NOUNdirect object
SENT = Ns ɡěi Ndondo

Example: Māma ɡěi wǒ xī yīfu.
Mama washed (my) clothes for me.
Sentence Pattern 50

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

\[
\text{SENTENCE} = \text{NOUN}_{\text{subject}} \text{ TRANSITIVE VERB NOUN}_{\text{direct object}} \text{ TRANSITIVE VERB dé PREDICATE}
\]

\[
\text{SENT} = \text{N}_{\text{s}} \text{ TV N}_{\text{o}} \text{ TV dé PRED}
\]

Example: Tāmen xiě zì xiě dé kuài.
They write quickly.

Example
我弟弟寫字寫得很亂。
Wǒ dìdì xiě zì xiě de hěn luàn.
My little brother scribbles badly.

Sentence Pattern 52

Another coverb that is frequently used to make sentences is duì, which means “to direct oneself toward,” to address (someone)."

\[
\text{SENTENCE} = \text{NOUN}_{\text{subject}} \text{ COVERB NOUN}_{\text{object}} \text{ PREDICATE}
\]

\[
\text{SENT} = \text{Ns COVERB No PRED}
\]

Example: Jīng chá duì dà jiā shuō : Qǐng mǎ shàng huí jiā qù

The policeman said to everyone: Please return home immediately!
Sentence Pattern 52

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 = NOUN_{subject} COVERB NOUN_{object} PREDICATE

SENT = N_s COVERB N_o PRED

Example: 矢 chá dì dà jiā shuō: Qǐng 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 dì wáng lǎo bù lǐ mào!
For Heaven’s sake do not be impolite to Don Wang!
Sentence Pattern **53**

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.

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

Example:  

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

---

Sentence Pattern: 54 ne

The sentence-ending particle ne gives a sense of suspension or anticipation. It is used in contexts where a rising intonation would be found in English, e.g., "I am Cyrus Brown. And you are…?"

It also gives an indication that something has not yet changed. In that case it frequently coordinates with 還沒有 hái méi yǒu, "still have not."

Examples:  

我叫鄭安國。你呢？  
Wǒ jiào Zhèng ān Guó, nǐ ne?  
我們還沒有吃飯呢。  
Wǒmen hái méi yǒu chī fàn.
Example

我沒有錢，你呢？

Wǒ hái méi yǒu bi yè ne. I still have not graduated.
Wǒ xìng Zhāng. nǐ ne? I am surnamed Zhang. And you…

Sentence Pattern: 55 ★★ Be aware: There are two kinds of 了.

了 after a verb means: Did do it.
了 after a sentence means: There has been a change.

Rule: If nothing happens, do not use 了.

Example
Sentence Pattern: 56

SENTENCE = Nₙ PREDₐ (to) PREDₜ -- with 用、給、對、替

當時，您的母親對我很好。
Dāng shí, nínde mǔ qīn duì wǒ hén hǎo.
At the time, your mother was very good to me.

These verbs tell what tool was used, whom something was given to (or whom some favor was done for), and toward whom some attitude or behavior was directed.

Example

Sentence Pattern 57
The word yī meaning “to the” in expressions indicating direction from some point is used in many sentences, often in conjunction with zài.

place = nounreference place yī nouncompass direction

e xample: 德 Guó zài Fà 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。一定一百分以下。
吃飯以前應該洗手。

Tāde qì chē hěn guì. sān shí wàn yǐ shàng.
Xióo zhǎng hěn lǎo. yí dìng wǔ shí suì yǐ shàng.
Pí gǔ tóu de IQ bù gāo. yí dìng yī bǎi fēn yǐ xià.
Chī fàn yǐ qián yǐng gǎi xi shǒu.

sentence pattern 58

Sentence = N, Verb de／bù result NOUNdestination NOUNcomplement

Example: Tā pào bù shàng shān lái.
    He is unable to run up the mountain (to where we are).

Example

小鳥飛不過大海。
我爸爸一定回得了家。
我們家可能買得了那所房子。
你飛得過高山回基地嗎？

Xiǎo niǎo fēi bù guò dà hǎi.
Wǒ bāba yǐ dìng huí dé liáo jiā.
Wǒmen jiā kě néng mǎi dé shāng nà suǒ fángzì.
Sentence Pattern 59

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 chīguō zǎo fàn ma?  
Have you eaten breakfast (today)?  
Tāmén qùguō 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?  
Nǐ yǐ qián kàn guō bā jīn xiě de nà běn shū ma?
誰看過月球的另外一面?  
Shéi kàn guō yuè qiú de lòu mìng wàn yí miàn?
你們聽過非洲音韻沒有?  
Nǐmen tīng guō fēi zhōu yīn yùn méi yǒu?
她沒有去過我家。

Sentence Pattern 60

Causation can be expressed by sentences that seem redundant in English, having the structure “Because....., therefore.....”

SENTENCE = yǐn wèi SENTENCE₁, suǒ yǐ SENTENCE₂  
SENT = yǐn wèi SENT₁, suǒ yǐ SENT₂

Example:  
Yǐn wèi tā bìng le, suǒ yǐ tāměi yǒu lái shàng kè.  
Because he got sick, (therefore) he did not come to attend class.
Example
因為媽媽那天回不了家，所以姐姐替她做飯。
因為錢不夠，所以我們只好吃白菜。
因為黑龍會很厲害，所以大家都很怕他們。

Sentence Pattern 61

Using yi with (be)fore and aft(er) to indicate ideas of time sequence:
Yì qián is, literally, “to the fore,” so it can translated as “before,” and yì hòu is, literally, “to the aft,” so it can be translated as “after. These expressions coordinate with zài in the structure of a sentence, and one says the word-for-word equivalent of, “I ate the meal before wash hands.” These expressions function as movable adverbs, so they may come before or after the subject of the sentence. “Zài” is frequently omitted.

SENTENCE = NOUNsubject (zài) event yì qián/hòu PREDICATE
           = (Zài) event yì qián/hòu, NOUNsubject PREDICATE
SENT = N, (zài) event yì qián/hòu PRED
       = (Zài) event yì qián/hòu, N, PRED

Example:
Tā zài tóng xuémen lái yì qián xiān zuò le fàn.
Zài tóng xuémen lái yì qián, tā xiān zuò le fàn.
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？

Zài nǐ huí jiā yì qián qǐng gěi nǐ fù mú dā yīge diàn huà.
Māma jiào wǒ chī fàn yì hòu yì dīng yìu shuā yá.
Kànle nàge diàn yìng yì hòu, wǒ jué dé hěn mèn.
Sentence Pattern 62

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

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

d example: zhè běn shū shì bā jīn xiě de.
      this book is one that bā jīn wrote. (this book is by bā jīn.)
Sentence Pattern 63
SENTENCE == Nₖ (正) in PRED

你又在鬼扯！
Ni₃ you₄ zai₄ gui₂ che³!
You are now engaging in talking nonsense again.

In English we use "ing" endings to indicate two things that are split up in Chinese. When the speaker wants to indicate an action that is occurring at the moment (in the same time slot), the adverbial expression (正) in is used.

Note well:

正在門口兒的那些人。。。 would refer to people who happened at the time of the comment being made to be in the doorway. There being in the doorway intersected, temporally, with something else that was going on.

現在在門口兒的那些人。。。 would refer to people who happened to be in the doorway at this clock time, at the present hour and minute, not earlier or later in the day.

在門口兒站著的那些人。。。 refers to the persistence of the behavior of people, people who were standing around in the doorway (loitering, waiting for something to happen, etc.).

Similarly,

老師正在吃飯。
"Teacher is eating dinner." (Meaning that he is in the same time slot with your coming to visit, so, sorry, you can't come in.)

老師吃著飯。
"Teacher is eating dinner." (Meaning that teacher is maintaining a process of putting food into his mouth and swallowing, etc., -- irrespective of anything else that is going on. He "just keeps on" eating.)

老師現在吃飯。
"Teacher eats now." (Meaning that he did not eat at 11:00, and he will not eat at 1:00. He is eating at the present clock time.)
Example

Sentence Pattern 64
PREDICATE == VERB zhe ne (著 呢)
  他哭著呢。
  Tā kūzhe ne.
  He just keeps on crying.

In above, the "ing" meaning "just at this moment" was expressed. In this case the other alternative is expressed. The verb ending 著 is used to indicate the drawing out of some event through time. If someone said, "你哭著呢！" the emphasis would be on the weeping as a continuing state of distress. In English we might translate, "You’re weeping!" but a more precise translation might be, "You've been crying!" The second sentence hints that the speaker can tell from the other person's appearance that the weeping has been going on for some time.
Sentence Pattern 64a

A verb final -zhe indicates continuing action, i.e., action that is not broken off, and therefore definitely not done with. Emphasis is on the persistence of the action, and has nothing to do with when it occurs.

\[ \text{VERB} = \text{VERB-zhe} \]

example: Zuótian Bàba huí láide shí hòu, Mèimei hái kūzhe.
Little sister was still weeping when dad got back yesterday.

Example

Sentence Pattern 65

\[ \text{SENTENCE} == \text{Ns ITV FV (ITV =) PV} \]

Niǎo fēi shàng lái.
The birds fly up (toward us).

A PV (post-verb) is really just an ordinary intransitive verb used for a special purpose. It indicates how the action described relates to the speaker. Is the action coming toward the speaker (来) or going in some other direction (去). In the example above, the bird is flying up (the mountain or whatever it is) and it is approaching the speaker.
Example

Sentence Pattern 66
SENTENCE == N_s FV N_{fv}

他上山。
Tā shàng shān.
She ascends the mountain.
Sentence Pattern 67

SENTENCE == Ns FV Nfv (ITV =) PV

他上山來。
Tā shàng shān lái.
He comes up the mountain.

Note that the person is "coming up the mountain" but it is possible that this person is flying in an airplane or floating in a balloon. So the sentence does not actually claim that the actor does anything to the mountain.
Sentence Pattern 68
SENTENCE == N<sub>s</sub> FV CV N<sub>cv</sub> (ITV =) PV

他們跑回山上來。
Tāmen pǎo huí shān shàng lái.
They run back up onto the mountain.

This pattern is similar to others in this series. Note how simpler patterns can be derived just by dropping elements that may already be understood.
Sentence Pattern 69

**COVERB = 能、會、可以、替**

他老了，不能走路了。Ta lǎo le, bù néng zǒu lù le. (He's gotten old and can't walk anymore.)

吃飯以前不可以吃糖。Chī fàn yǐ qián bù kě yǐ chī táng. (You may not eat candy before dinner.)

你怎麼還不會開車？！Nǐ zěnme hái bù huì kāi chē?!! (How come you still can't drive?)

請你明天替我作報告。Qǐng nǐ míng tiān tì wǒ zuò bào gào. (Please issue the report for me tomorrow.)

爸爸替他理頭髮。Bàba tì wǒ lǐ tóu fà. (Dad gave me a haircut.)

These coverbs have similar meanings. 能 means to be physically able to do something and/or that environmental factors permit doing something. 會 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.

替 tì means to do something in somebody’s stead, e.g., it was my job but I was ill so she did it for me. (And she got paid, too.)
Example

Sentence Pattern 70  (See Pattern 34)[[BLDS 55]]

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 看得见 or 看不见. 看得见 is the action of opening the eyes and attempting to look. 看见 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 “看不见,” and if vision occurs then the expression is “看得见.” These items cannot be compared. One either sees or fails to see. How well one sees requires a different formulation.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{SENTENCE} = \\
\text{NOUN}_{\text{subject}} \ \text{VERB}_{\text{tried}} \ 	ext{dē/bù} \ \text{VERB}_{\text{expected result}} \ (\text{NOUN}_{\text{obj}})
\end{align*}
\]

Example:
|
| Tā kàn bù jiàn le. |
| She is no longer able to see. (Perhaps it has become too dark.) |
| Tā kàn bù dào tāde māmā. |
| He cannot spot his moma. (She must be there somewhere but |
| There are so many other people that he cannot spot her.) |

Example Verb 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 看得見 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.
Sentence Pattern 71  [[BLDS 56]]

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 mǎo. “Qián” means “money.”

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

Example:

- sān yuán wǔ jiǎo qī fēn qián
- sān kuài wǔ mǎo qī fēn qián
- three dollars five dimes seven cents money
- three dollars and fifty-seven cents

---

Examples

- 售票上寫著：三百圓九角九分錢。
- 我買了七塊九毛六分錢的信紙。
- 你還欠我八元六毛呢。

---

Sentence Pattern: 72  [[BLDS 57]]

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.”

\[
\text{NOUN} = \text{amount de NOUN}
\]

Example:

- Wǒ mǎi zhǐ. \quad I buy paper.
- Nǐ mǎi duō shǎo qián de zhǐ? \quad You buy how much paper?
- Wǒ mǎi wǔ kuài qián de zhǐ. \quad I buy five dollars worth.
Example
他天天賣四塊錢的雞蛋嗎？
先生想要買多少錢的紙頭？
小姐多買幾塊錢的香水吧。

Sentence Pattern 73

The coverb gēn is used to form sentences indicating that two or more things are the same. The expression for “the same” is “yī yàng.” It functions as a stative verb. Saying, “tāmén yī 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\textsubscript{subject} gēn NOUN\textsubscript{standard} yī yàng
SENT = N\textsubscript{s} gēn N\textsubscript{standard} yī yàng

Example: Tā gēn Kǒng Zǐ yī 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.
你跟我哥哥完全不一樣。
Ni gēn wǒ gēge wán quán bù yí yàng.
You are totally different from my elder brother.
Sentence Pattern 74

SENTENCE =(是) SENT₀ 還是 SENT₁

是在宿舍念書好，還是在圖書館念書好？

還是 can be used to set up a choice between ideas expressed in two full sentences.

Example

Sentence Pattern 75

VERB = VERB 得/不 VERB-COMPLEMENT

你看得見看不見(他們)？

Verb 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 看得見 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.
Sentence Pattern 76
The “shì...de” sentence pattern can be used to give prominence to one element of a sentence, frequently when correcting somebody’s misinterpretation of the facts.

SENTENCE = NOUN\text{subject} shì NOUN\text{author} PRED de
SENT = N_s shì N\text{author} PRED de

他是一九九三年二月四號來的。
不对。他是一九九四年二月四號來的。
不对。他一九九三年是五月四號來的。
不对。他一九九三年二月是十四號來的。
the is... of structure
她是大学毕业的。
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 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
他是一九九三年二月四号来的。
不對。他是一九九四年二月四號來的。
不對。他一九九三年是五月四號來的。
不對。他一九九三年二月是十四號來的。

Sentence Pattern 77

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

NOUN_{object} = time de NOUN_{object}
N_0 = time de N_0

Example: Tā měi tiān kàn yī gē zhōngtōu de shū.
Every day he reads an hours worth of books.
Example
結婚的那天，他們跳了三個鐘頭的舞。
她在小學已經念了三年的中文。
她跟她男朋友每次說三十分到無十分鐘的電話。

Sentence Pattern 78

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.”

SENTENCE = NOUN<sub>focus</sub> bèi NOUN<sub>actor</sub> PREDICATE
SENT = N<sub>focus</sub> bèi NOUN<sub>actor</sub> PRED

Example: Wōde zǐ xíng chē bèi Dìdì qí huái le.
         My bicycle by my little brother was ridden to destruction.
         (My bicycle got wrecked by my little brother.)

Example
那三隻小豬都被大狼吃掉le。
Goldilocks有沒有被熊吃掉？
林肯總統被誰暗殺？
Sentence Pattern 79  

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: Nà jīge rén zuó tiān huí Zhōng Guó qù le.  
Those several people returned to China yesterday.

Example

誰要吃牛肉，誰就吃牛肉。  
他什麼地方都去過。  
他們幾個人都有錢。
Sentence Pattern 80

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:

SENTENCE: NOUN
subject
yí yàng STATIVE VERB
SENT = Ns yì yàng SV
Example: Tāmen yì yàng cōng míng.
They are equally intelligent.

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

SENTENCE = NOUN
subject
gēn NOUN
standard
yí yàng PREDICATE
SENT = Ns gēn Ns_standard yì yàng PRED

Example: Tā gēn wǒ yì yàng xǐ huān nǐ.
He likes you as much as I do.
Sentence Pattern 81

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

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

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

Example
你有 Bill Gates 那麼有錢。
你沒有弊尾(Beavis)那麼好看。

Sentence Pattern 82

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_{\text{target yǐ wài}}, SENTENCE
SENT = chúle N_{\text{target yǐ wài}} SENT

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

Sentence Pattern 83 (repeat)    

SENTENCE = NOUN_subject bā NOUN_object PREDICATE  
SENT = N_s bā N_o PRED.

Example:  Dìdì bā wǒde táng dòu chī guāng le  
Little brother got my candy and ate it all up
Extended note on  bǎ :

Não  PRED

老虎會把牛都吃掉。
Láo hǔ huì bǎ niú dōu chī diào.
The tigers are apt to eat up all the cattle.

Y. R. Zhao, *A Grammar of Spoken Chinese*, p. 344, notes: "As a generalized meaning of the second verb after a pre-transitive [ba], Wang Lih (Yeufaa, I, 160) described it as that of disposal (處直式). But unless taken in a very broad sense, including disposal in an abstract sense, it will hardly be wide enough to apply to all cases." He also points out, on the following page, that "the one feature that is common to all the second verbal expressions after pretransitives is their polysyllabicity." On p. 346 he says that "a pretransitive is employed to advance the position of the object and get it out of the way."

The  bǎ structure is typically used in two situations. One is to give prominence to the idea of getting one's hands on something or somebody to do something to them. The other is simply to reposition the object of the verb ahead of the rest of the predicate to enable it to be governed by 都 or to avoid breaking up verb clusters and making their meaning less clear.

These sentences frequently answer the question, "Who got to your candy?" or "Who did that to your poor nose?" The answer says that so and so got ahold of it and did something to it.

The noun governed by  bǎ is always a specific individual or group. 公公每次來就給我們書 says that Grandpa gives us books every time he visits, but it is not some known group of books. 公公把書給我們, however, has to refer to "the books," some known group of books that he decided to give us.

In a sense this construction is very literal-minded.  bǎ means "to take in hand," and if there isn't already something there to grab then it does not make sense to use  bǎ. In English it is possible to say something like, "Ba Jin started writing his new novel," but in Chinese one cannot use  bǎ as long as there is not something that one could take hold of. After there is something concrete in existence,  bǎ can be used to say things like, "Ba Jin finished up writing that new novel." (巴金把那本新的小說寫完了。 Bā Jīn bǎ nà běn xīn de xiǎo shū xiě wán le.)
Bǎ functions as an "object mover-upper" in two situations: One is to put the object of the sentence where it can be governed by 都 doū.

他們都買了汽車了。 Tāmen dōu mǎi le qī chē le. "They all bought automobiles." but

他們把汽車都買了。 Tāmen bā qī chē dōu mǎi le. "They bought all of the automobiles.

The other function is to move the object out of a tightly bound cluster of verbal elements where it can find no happy home.

As beginning learners of Chinese develop a more advanced sense for the "feel" of the language, they will begin to recognize situations in which there seems to be no safe or appropriate place to put the object of a sentence because it keeps disturbing the flow and organization of that sentence. The ordinary way out of that problem is to move it up before all of those complications by using bā.

Examples:

弟弟吃了糖。 Dìdi chī le táng. Little brother ate some candy.

弟弟把我的糖吃了。 Dìdi bā wǒde táng chī le. Little brother got ahold of my candy and ate it.

弟弟把我的糖都吃光了。 Dìdi bā wǒde táng dōu chī guāng le. Little brother got ahold of my candy and ate it all up.

弟弟把我的糖拿回他朋友的家裡去給他的一些朋友們偷偷兒地吃了。

Dìdi bā wǒde táng ná huí tā péng yǒu de jiā lǐ qù gěi tā de yī xiě péng yǒu men tōu tōu érde chī le.

Little brother got ahold of my candy and took it back to his friends house and gave it to a some friends of his to eat in secrecy.

她把我的名字說成笑話。 She turned my name into an object of ridicule.

你的小豬太麻煩！我要把牠吃掉！Your pig is too troublesome! I want to eat it!

別把鑰匙忘了！ 趕，343. Do not forget the key!

他們把事情講明白了。 346 They explicated the incident.

學校一直要把我免職。350 All along the school has wanted to fire me.

別把那個小偷兒殺頭。 350 Do not behead that petty thief.
Sentence Pattern 84

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:

Qīng nǐ hǎo hǎo ér de xiě zì.
Please write your characters nicely.

Qīng nǐ kuài kuài ér de huí jiā qù.
Please return home quickly.

Example:

兩隻老虎慢慢兒地回到森林裡頭去了。
那幾個人一步一步地跟著牠們進去了。

Sentence Pattern 85

Sentences with indirect objects

\[
\text{SENTENCE} = N_s \text{ TV} \: N_{\text{ido}} \: N_{\text{do}}
\]

Example:

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

Sentence Pattern 86

Time accreted to an activity

SENT = N

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 87

The more it rains the more it pours, etc.

SENTENCE = NOUN

subject

yuè PREDa

yuè PREDb

Example: Tā yuè niàn shū yuè kùn.

The more he studied the sleepier he got.
Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sentence Pattern</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SENT = lián n⁰ yē/dōu PRED</td>
<td>Lián bái lāo shī dōu shuō è wén hěn nán.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sentence Pattern</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SENT = (Ns) lián n⁰ (Ns) yē/dōu PRED</td>
<td>Bái lāo shī lián Bái Gōng dōu qūguo. Lián Bái Gōng Bái lāo shī dōu qūguo.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sentence Pattern 90

\[ \text{SENTENCE} = N_s \text{ VERB} \text{ zhe} \ N_o \]

Example: Pingzi shàng xiēzhe “Sān wǎn bù guò gāng”

On the bottle was written: "Three bowls and you won't make it over the mountain ridge."

Sentence Pattern 91

At the moment, during this time period (the lunch hour, etc.)
A speaker at one time can relate how two people are or were doing things in the same time frame, e.g., When the guests arrived he was just then taking a bath. (Kè rén láide shí hòu, tā zhèng zài xǐ zǎo.)

\[ \text{ADV} = \text{zhèng zài} \]

Example
Sentence Pattern 92

SENT = Ns TV No TV dé gēn Nstandard yì yàng PRED

Example: Tā kǎi chē kǎide gēn wǒ dǐ yì yàng zǎo gāo.

Sentence Pattern 93

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

Example: Lǎo shī xié xiǎo shuō xiě dé yǒu Bā Jīn nème duǒ.

Extension of a previous pattern

Example
Sentence Pattern 94

Resultative verbs when the second element has a negative

Example: Tāmen pǎo dé bú kuài.

Extension of a previous pattern

Sentence Pattern 95

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

Extension of a previous pattern

Example
Sentence Pattern 96

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

Example

Sentence Pattern 97

zài4 LOCATION de NOUN

Example
Sentence Pattern 98

None other than X did it too.

SENTENCE = Jiùshi Ns yē PREDICATE

Example

Sentence Pattern 99

Whoever wants to:

SENTENCE = Shéi yào PREDICATEa, shéi jiù PREDICATEa

Example
Sentence Pattern 100

Giving free rein:
Sentence = NOUNsubject yào PREDICATEa jiù PREDICATEa

Example

Sentence Pattern 102

VERB = VERB + qǐ lái

Example: Wǒ xiǎng qǐ lái le!
Sentence Pattern 103

SENTENCE = Ns ADVmanner PRED

Example: Tā shǎo gēile yī kuài qián.
          Tā kuàikuārde pǎo huí jiā qù le.

Example

Sentence Pattern 105

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 106

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

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

Sentence Pattern 107

Concessive intrusion in sentence = VERB shì VERB, kěshì PRED

Example: Zhèi liàng qì chē, hǎo shì hǎo, kěshì hěn màn.
Sentence Pattern 109 [BLDS 90]

ADV = yī (meaning “immediately upon”)

Example: Nǐ yí gào sù nǐ dìdì, tā jiù gēn wǒ shuō le.

Example

Sentence Pattern 110

ADVERB = yí (meaning the entire)

Example: Tā bǐ yè le, wǒmen yījiā dōu hǎo le!

Example