Similar to English,

- **Subject Verb Object**

(1) a. John loves Mary.
   
   b. 約翰愛瑪麗。

   However, no ‘word boundary’ in writing.

   c. 約翰愛瑪麗。

   It is also possible to write from top to down:

   d. 約翰愛瑪麗。

Same Rules!

- **PP → P**
  - (2) at home
  - zai jia
  - at home

- **NP**
  - home

- **AP → Adv**
  - very
  - hen very

- **Adj**
  - tall
  - gao tall
• VP → V.clausal S

(4) think [John loves Mary]

想 [約翰 愛 瑪麗]

xiang Yuehan ai Mali

think John love Mary

• VP → V.give NP NP

(5) give John a book

給 約翰 一本書

give Yuehan yi.ben.shu

give John a book
• VP→V.trans NP

(6) love Mary

愛 瑪麗

• VP→V.state Adj

(7) feel tired

覺得 累

love Mary

juede lei

feel tired
(8) put a book on the table

放一本書在桌上

VPs are head-initial
BUT, they are not exactly the same.

• $VP \rightarrow V_{\text{trans}} \ NP \ (PP)$

(9)
Passive sentences

(10) The cat is seen ___.

那隻貓被看見___了。

Passive marker, *bei-* (被)
Passive sentences

(11)

The cat is seen by John.

那隻貓被John看見了。

na zhi mao bei John kanjian le
Some conjunction pairs

(12) because / so
因爲 ..., 所以 ...。
yinwei suoyi
because so

(13) although / but
雖然 ..., 但是 ...。
suiran danshi
although but
• NP → (DT) (Adj) N

(14) that book
那本书

(15) a beautiful girl
一個漂亮的女孩

(16) those big trees
那些大樹

Number agreement is not necessary
NP \rightarrow (DT \text{ number classifier}) \ (Adj) \ N

(14) that book

那 本 書

(15) a beautiful girl

一個 漂亮的 女孩

(16) those big trees

那些 (棵) 大 樹
Here are the differences:

- **No Case marking** in Chinese

**Subject**

(17) Ni/Wo/Ta shi xuesheng。
You/I/(S)He be student

**Object**

Ta ai ni/wo/ta
(S)He love you/I/(s)he.
Here are the differences:

- **No subject-verb agreement**

  (18)a. I **love** him.
  
  b. Wo **ai** ta  

  (19)a. She **loves** you.
  
  b. Ta **ai** ni  

- **No tense marking** on verbs in Chinese
Here are the differences:

- **No tense marking, but aspectual affixes**

(20) a. He loved Mary.

b. 他愛過瑪麗。 *(experience)*

c. He died.

d. 他死了。 *(change of state)*

e. He is reading.

f. 他在讀書。 *(progressive)*
Topics
• Derived Topic
(21) a. That movie, I like __ec__ a lot
   b. 那部電影，我很喜歡__ec__。
• Base-generated Topic
(22) 那場火，幸好消防隊來得早。
   ‘That fire, fortunately, firefighters came in time.’
Questions

- Yes-no questions

(23)
John is here. → Is John here?

約翰在這兒。→約翰在這兒嗎？
Yuehan zai zher → Yuehan zai zher ma
John at here → John at here Q
Questions

- Wh-questions

John loves Mary.

Who does John love?

約翰愛瑪麗。

約翰愛誰？
Modal auxiliaries

(25)

He should come. He can come.

他應該來。他可以來。

He should be able to come.

他應該可以來。

he should can come
Relative clauses

(26) men who left

離開.的 人

likai.de ren

leave.DE man

➔ English NP is head-initial (left-headed)
➔ Chinese NP is head-final (right-headed)