Examples of Simple Constructions

1. Predicate noun or noun complement:

   He is a policeman.
   She is an American.

2. Predicate adjective or adjective complement:

   He is rich.
   She is beautiful.

3. Direct object:

   He drives a car. (He drives what?)
   She wrote a book. (She wrote what?)
   They passed the test. (They passed what?)

4. Indirect object:

   She gave me a book.
   He gave him a passing grade.
   They gave her a going away present.

   (The indirect object is placed between the verb and the direct object. It will never be in a prepositional phrase. The indirect object receives the direct object.)

5. A prepositional phrase used as an adjective:

   The hat on her head is purple. (on her head modifies hat)
   The boy with the bicycle is my brother. (with the bicycle modifies boy)

6. A prepositional phrase used as an adverb:

   She ran down the hill. (down the hill modifies ran.)
   She awakened during the rain storm. (during the rain storm modifies awakened)