Word Order Types in German - Introduction

Main Word Order (also called *Normal* or *Declarative* or *Statement* word order)

Fore Field	1st Verb Field	Sentence Field	2nd Verb Field	
one element	one conjugated verb	all remaining elements	all non-conjugated verb elements	
Am Montag	spielen	wir immer Karten .		We always play cards on Monday.
Erik	muss	bald seinen Großvater	besuchen .	Erik has to visit his grandfather soon.
Gestern	hat	mir mein Bruder ein Geburtstagsgeschenk	gegeben .	Yesterday, my brother gave me a birthday present.

Information Question (based on the expected response that a specific piece of information will be given)

Question Word	1st Verb Field	Sentence Field	2nd Verb Field	
question element in the fore field	one conjugated verb	all remaining elements	all non-conjugated verb elements	
Wann	kommst	du nach Hause ?		When are you coming home?
Wo	wohnt	jetzt deine Schwester ?		Where does your sister live now?
Was	wollt	ihr am Wochenende	machen ?	What do you guys want to do on the weekend?
Wie lange	hat	gestern der Unterricht	gedauert ?	How long did class go yesterday?

Yes-No Question (based on the expected response that either *yes* or *no* will be given)

1st Verb Field	Sentence Field	2nd Verb Field	
one conjugated verb	all remaining elements	all non-conjugated verb elements	
Lernt	Robert jeztz Deutsch ?		Is Robert learning German now?
Können	wir morgen im Park einen Spaziergang	machen ?	Can we take a walk in the park tomorrow?
Hast	du gestern mit Erika	telefoniert?	Did you talk with Erika on the phone yesterday?

Color Coding: Blue indicates simple sentence with single verb. Teal indicates sentence with modal verb + infinitive. Flesh indicates present perfect tense with tense auxiliary and participle.