

Subjects and Predicates

Simple Subjects

FOCUS

The simple subject is the common noun, proper noun, or pronoun that the verb acts upon. The subject is the “do-er” or the “be-er” of the sentence. It tells whom or what the sentence is about. When additional words help name or describe the simple subject, this is known as a complete subject.

Examples:	<i>A nurse</i> assisted the patient.	Simple Subject
	<i>The police officer</i> helped prevent the accident.	Complete Subject

CONNECT TO WRITING

The simple subject is usually found at the start of a declarative sentence (a sentence which makes a statement). To find the simple subject of the sentence, first look for any prepositional phrases. The simple subject of the sentence is never part of a prepositional phrase. Frequently, in imperative sentences (sentences which give commands or make requests), the simple subject, “you,” is implied (suggested, not stated).

PRACTICE

Underline the simple subjects found in this article.

Vacationing in Mexico, an experienced traveler will visit three famous cities. Tasco, known as the “Silver City” because of its rich silver mines, welcomes thousands of tourists each summer to see its timeless architecture. The cathedral impresses visitors from around the world. A second city, Guadalajara, shows off its rich colonial heritage. Having one of the most beautiful town squares, this city gives any traveler a complete history of Mexico. If given the opportunity, people not hesitate to visit the capital. Mexico City has many sites of archeological importance, including pyramids of the Aztec Empire. A trip to Mexico connects the traveler with his or her historical roots, as a North American.

What is the complete subject in the first sentence of the above story?

WRITE

Write your own sentence with a simple subject.

FOCUS

The compound subject has two or more connected common nouns, proper nouns, or pronouns that one verb acts upon. The words “and,” “or,” or “nor” connect them. The compound subject is the “do-er” or the “be-er” of the sentence. It tells whom or what the sentence is about.

Examples: The *girl* and her *mother* walked to the store.
 Running quickly down the slope were *Suzanne, Becky, and Carson*.

CONNECT TO WRITING

The compound subject is usually found at the start of a declarative sentence (a sentence which makes a statement). To find the compound subject of the sentence, first look for any prepositional phrases. The compound subject of the sentence is never part of a prepositional phrase.

PRACTICE

Underline the simple compound subjects found in this article.

Both Winter and Summer Olympics feature the best in international competition. The marathon and 100 meter race always fill the stadium with an eager audience. Track fans and casual spectators enjoy the competition of these Olympic events.

Basketball, gymnastics, and ice-hockey get the highest television ratings. Tickets to these events are quite popular. The cost of these tickets and the effort it takes to purchase these tickets make many people decide to watch these events at home.

Most nations in the world send athletes, coaches, and trainers to participate in at least a few events. During the Olympics nations put aside their disagreements to compete for the love of sport. Athletes and spectators look forward to the Olympics every other year.

WRITE

Write your own sentence with a compound subject.

Subjects and Predicates Compound Predicates

FOCUS

The compound predicate has two or more connected verbs that act upon the same sentence subject. The subject is the “do-er” or “be-er” of the sentence.

Examples: Michael *fell* and *hurt* his hand. She *had become* and still *remained* a young lady.

To find the compound predicate, first identify the subject and ask “What?” The answer to this question should be the predicate. A connecting word such as *and*, *or*, or *but* is usually placed between the verbs.

Example: She ran and jumped. *She* is the subject. *She* what? Answer: *ran* and *jumped*.

CONNECT TO WRITING

Using compound predicates can help your writing become clear, brief, and readable.

Example: Instead of these sentences: *Rob studied the textbook for the exam. Then, he practiced the vocabulary for the exam.* **Revise with a compound predicate:** *Rob studied the textbook and practiced the vocabulary for the exam.*

PRACTICE

Underline the simple subjects and bracket the compound predicates found in this article.

Of all the books by Mark Twain, two works stand out and are remembered as his best. Twain’s description of life as a riverboat captain in *Life on the Mississippi* both entertains and informs. After reading this book, one will learn and understand what “Mark Twain” means. A second novel, *Huckleberry Finn*, teaches and preaches about how to love one another. The book’s hero, Huck Finn, wrestles with and eventually triumphs over the evils of slavery.

Combine (put together) the following sentences with a compound predicate.

Debbie walked into the room. Next, she sat down in the chair. And she heaved a sigh of relief.

WRITE

Write your own sentence with a compound predicate.

Language Worksheet Answers

Simple Subject

traveler, Tasco, cathedral, Guadalajara, city, people, Mexico City, trip
an experienced traveler

Compound Subject

marathon+race, fans+spectators, Basketball+gymnastics+ice-hockey, cost+effort,
Athletes+spectators

Simple Predicate

Ice cream+[has pleased], ice cream+[is], treat+[has], Rocky Road+[delights],
nuts+marshmallows+[may cause], double-scoop+[tastes], Eating +[can be]

Compound Predicate

works+[stand]+[are remembered], description+[entertains]+[informs], one+[will learn]+
[understand], novel+[teaches]+[preaches], hero+[wrestles]+[triumphs], Debbie walked into the
room, sat down in the chair, and heaved a sigh of relief.

Simple Sentence

Look at me when I talk to you.	imperative
That answer really shocked me.	exclamatory
Why should I have to wait?	interrogative
Tom asked me a question.	declarative

Compound Sentence

I enjoy watching old television shows, but (yet) the new ones are better.
Do you want vanilla, or (and) do you want strawberry?
No one really wants to go; they just feel like they must attend.
This route takes too long; there must be another way.

Complex Sentence

Kenny will be able to go outside to play *after*, *as long as*, *because*, *if*, *once*, or *when* he practices
his trombone.
Because, *Since* the Kings won the first round of the play-offs, the team advances to the second
round.

Language Worksheet Answers (continued)

Compound-Complex Sentence

Options:

After the sun set, John told a campfire story, and the campers roasted marshmallows.
John told a campfire story, and the campers roasted marshmallows after the sun set.
The campers roasted marshmallows, and John told a campfire story after the sun set.

The captain knew the sailor, but the sailor did not recognize him since the captain had a beard.
The sailor did not recognize him, since the captain had a beard, but the captain knew the sailor.

Although Tom knew better, he could not teach her, because Sue would not listen.

Sentence Fragments

#1 1. F 2. CS 3. F 4. F 5. F 6. CS 7. F

#2 Options:

Running down the hill to my friend, she fell down and sprained her ankle.
She fell down and sprained her ankle running down the hill to my friend.

Any independent clause+“When the class goes to lunch after the bell.”
The playground seems wet with ice.

Run-On Sentences

#1 Mohandas K. Gandhi has been called the most important Indian leader of this century, his ideas about non-violent protesting helped unite the entire nation of India against the British Empire.

Gandhi’s ideas also influenced the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. in the United States both men were murdered because of their views.

King learned much from Mohandas K. Gandhi so did many Americans.

#2 Ms. Clements always prepared well for her lesson plans, and (so) the results paid off.
Options:

Jonathan seemed very selfish; he never shared with the other children.
Jonathan seemed very selfish, never sharing with the other children.

Parallelism

a new nation	that nation, any nation, this nation
we cannot dedicate	we cannot consecrate, we cannot hollow
who struggled here	what we say here, what they did here, to be dedicated here, they who fought here
shall not have died in vain	shall have a new birth of freedom, shall not perish from the earth
of the people	by the people, for the people