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The Sentence (Complete Subjects and Predicates)**• Practice 1**

Complete Subjects and Predicates A sentence is a group of words with two main parts: a complete subject and a complete predicate. Together these parts express a complete thought.

| Complete Subjects | Complete Predicates |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Everyone in our family | likes Mexican food. |
| The house down the street | has been for sale for months. |
| Fish | swim. |

Exercise 1

Recognizing Complete Subjects and Predicates. On the blank after each sentence, write *S* or *P* to tell whether the underlined word or group of words is the complete subject or the complete predicate.

EXAMPLE: The bike with the missing reflector is mine. *P*

1. Azaleas do well in acid soil. _____
2. The last essay question was really challenging. _____
3. Most of the students in my class study hard. _____
4. The player with the most points at the end of the game loses. _____
5. Weather forecasters predict another storm front from the west. _____
6. The first volunteer fire company in the United States was in Philadelphia. _____
7. Benjamin Franklin organized it. _____
8. Franklin was once ambassador to France. _____
9. Many American towns and cities are named for places in England. _____
10. You may have a little trouble with the lock. _____

Exercise 2

Identifying Complete Subjects and Predicates. In each sentence underline the complete subject once and the complete predicate twice.

EXAMPLE: The tall ships sailed up the Atlantic Coast.

1. Several members of that family have served in the armed forces.
2. Louise borrowed my sweater last week.
3. A pane in one of the bedroom windows cracked.
4. Lemmings follow their leader to their death.
5. A portrait of my grandmother hangs above the mantel.
6. The first pianist on the program seemed nervous.
7. All the children in the neighborhood enjoyed the new playground.
8. Searchlights from the rescue ships flashed across the water.
9. The fans of the losing team groaned.
10. Philip or his brother will surely help you.

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The Sentence (Complete Subjects and Predicates)**• Practice 2**

Exercise 1 **Recognizing Complete Subjects and Predicates.** In each sentence, underline each complete subject once and each complete predicate twice.

EXAMPLE: The tall pine trees swayed in the wind.

1. The car swerved away from the child.
2. My favorite radio station plays all of the hit songs.
3. Grandfather Kim owns an art gallery in Chicago.
4. Mexico City was built on a lake.
5. The evening news summarizes the day's events.
6. Shakespeare's father was a glove maker.
7. Computers process information very quickly.
8. My older brother has a telephone shaped like Mickey Mouse.
9. The bags of coins were placed in an armored truck.
10. Damascus, the capital of Syria, has been continuously inhabited for over four thousand years.
11. Mr. Axelrod worked for years as a traveling salesman.
12. The magma in a volcano is called lava when it reaches the air.
13. The ancient Greeks were the first people to have free public museums.
14. People in ancient times used the abacus to compute numbers.
15. Some museums are devoted entirely to computers.
16. Some species of bats are very beneficial to the environment.
17. More than five hundred volcanoes have erupted over the centuries.
18. Our sun is a typical, medium-sized star.
19. The gravity of the sun is almost twenty-eight times the gravity of Earth.
20. Some planets have one or more moons.

Exercise 2 **Recognizing Complete Subjects and Predicates.** In each sentence underline the complete subject once and the complete predicate twice.

EXAMPLE: The blue-eyed Siamese cat curled up on the oak desk.

(1) The giant panda lives in the remote mountains of southern China. (2) This animal is a frustrating mystery to zoologists. (3) The Chinese name for the panda is *xiong-mao*, or "bear-cat". (4) However, the animal is not a cat. (5) Zoologists do not agree about its identity. (6) Some call it a bear. (7) Others place it in the same family as the raccoon. (8) Sadly, the panda is becoming rare. (9) The reason for this is the scarcity of bamboo, its main food. (10) The panda populations can be saved only through worldwide efforts.

20.1 The Sentence (Sentence or Fragment?) • Practice 1

Sentence or Fragment? A fragment is a group of words that does not express a complete thought.

| Fragments | Complete Sentences |
|-------------------------|---|
| Early Sunday afternoon | Our weekend guests left early Sunday afternoon. |
| The beautiful phoenix | The beautiful phoenix was a mythical bird. |
| Rose from its own ashes | The phoenix rose from its own ashes. |

Fragments as Sentence Parts To turn fragments into sentences, add whatever sentence parts are needed to express a complete thought. The chart below explains what sentence parts were added to the fragments in the chart above.

| SENTENCE PARTS ADDED |
|--|
| Complete subject and predicate areas were added. |
| A predicate area was added. |
| A subject area was added. |

Exercise 1 Distinguishing Between Sentences and Fragments. In the blanks below, write *S* for each sentence and *F* for each fragment.

EXAMPLE: throughout the day and into the night. *F*

- Without any trouble at all. _____
- Played quietly after dinner. _____
- Pete plays the piccolo. _____
- Beyond our wildest expectations. _____
- Yellowstone Park attracts many tourists. _____
- People from all parts of the world. _____
- The contestant with the most unusual costume. _____
- Has traveled widely throughout the United States. _____
- The prospector struck oil. _____
- Robins fly south for the winter. _____

Exercise 2 Adding Words to Make Sentences from Fragments. Rewrite five of the fragments above as complete sentences.

EXAMPLE: *Snow fell throughout the day and into the night.*

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

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The Sentence (Sentence or Fragment?) • Practice 2

Exercise 1 **Distinguishing Between Sentences and Fragments.** Identify each item as a *sentence* or a *fragment*.

EXAMPLE: Worked for many hours fragment

1. In the woods almost until dawn. _____
2. A few inches of snow. _____
3. The grizzly bear needs large territories undisturbed by people. _____
4. Have been unusually high because of the very heavy rains this season. _____
5. Herds of thousands of caribou. _____
6. Haste makes waste. _____
7. Dived in search of food. _____
8. Cousteau believes artificial islands could be built off the coast. _____
9. About a great white shark, one of the largest ones ever caught. _____
10. Cougars have become increasingly rare. _____
11. Is the last frontier. _____
12. There he sat, totally content. _____
13. In the day in order to hunt at night. _____
14. Ice-covered Mount McKinley in Alaska attracts many tourists. _____
15. Wolves, jaguars, and grizzly bears once numerous in North America. _____

Writing Application **Using Fragments to Make Sentences.** Combine each of the ten complete subjects on the left with one of the ten complete predicates on the right to make ten logical sentences.

EXAMPLE: The umpire at yesterday's game told me to watch my temper.

The umpire at yesterday's game told me to watch my temper.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. His Roman costume | took the wrong bus. |
| 2. The children | stuck to the stage. |
| 3. The girl with butterflies in her stomach | wandered into the tack room. |
| 4. The curious horse | can fool people. |
| 5. The boy with the confused expression | was tangled in the stage scenery. |
| 6. Lemon jello inside empty eggshells | put sugar at the bottom of her sleeping bag. |
| 7. Their cousins coming for dinner | was wearing his shirt inside out. |
| 8. The man standing on the corner | scored a goal for the opposing team. |
| 9. Her long, pointed putty nose | thought the raccoon was a ghost. |
| 10. Her friends at the slumber party | spoke to the flag instead of to the class. |

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

20.1 Subjects and Verbs (Simple Subjects and Predicates) • Practice 1

Simple Subjects and Predicates The simple subject is the essential noun, pronoun, or group of words acting as a noun that cannot be left out of the complete subject. The simple predicate is the essential verb or verb phrase that cannot be left out of the complete predicate. In the chart below, each simple subject and simple predicate is in darker type.

| Complete Subjects | Complete Predicates |
|--|--|
| Tired of arguing, Maria | finally agreed to the plan. |
| Like many others in my class, I | do not especially like homework. |
| Many citizens in town | oppose higher taxes. |
| Others | agree . |

Focusing on Subjects and Verbs Being able to locate subjects and verbs quickly in sentences will help you to determine that a sentence is clear and grammatically correct.

| FINDING SUBJECTS AND VERBS |
|---|
| To find the subject, ask "What word is the sentence telling about?" To find the verb, look for a word or word group that expresses action, existence, or a linking relationship. |

Exercise 1 **Recognizing Complete and Simple Subjects and Predicates.** Draw a line between the complete subject and the complete predicate in each sentence. Then circle each simple subject and predicate.

EXAMPLE: That tall (girl) in the red dress | usually (gets) the best grades.

- The album with the original cast is now available in most stores.
- Senator Billings will propose the new law.
- The fourth Thursday in November is celebrated as Thanksgiving Day.
- The skydiver landed safely.
- Youngsters sometimes jump from those high rocks.
- Dignitaries from all over the world attended the reception.
- The children's elaborate skyscraper collapsed.
- Ghosts are popular Halloween characters.
- Several students from Europe are staying with local families.
- The mysterious figure in black vanished.

Exercise 2 **Adding Sentence Parts.** Each word group below is missing either a complete subject or a complete predicate. On the line write a missing part to create a complete sentence. Circle the simple subject and simple predicate in the final sentence.

EXAMPLE: (Most) of the people passing by (did) not (offer) to help.

- From among the many entries, only one _____.
- Every visitor to our school _____.
- _____ gradually overcame the fear of heights.
- My younger brother _____.
- _____ has misplaced a library book.

20.1 Subjects and Verbs (Simple Subjects and Predicates) • Practice 2

Exercise 1 **Recognizing Simple Subjects and Predicates.** Draw a line between the complete subject and complete predicate. Then underline each simple subject once and each simple predicate twice.

EXAMPLE: A friend of mine | plays chess with me.

1. A sixteen-year-old girl from California gave the best dramatic interpretation.
2. A muddy dog of unknown breed ran away with Bernard's lunch.
3. Her friends at school helped her get a job.
4. The weary commuters were angry about the delay.
5. The freshman with the most unusual hat won the contest.
6. The boxes under the sink are empty.
7. The frightened witnesses wrote reports for the police.
8. The speaker caught his fishing pole on the light fixture.
9. Students going on the trip left early this morning.
10. The forward with the knee brace made ten baskets.

Exercise 2 **Finding Subjects and Verbs.** Underline the subject once and the verb twice.

EXAMPLE: Many people visit the Grand Canyon.

(1) A tourist gets a spectacular view at the Grand Canyon. (2) Curious visitors can take nature walks along the trails on the edge of the canyon. (3) Hikers may want to venture down the steep trails into the canyon. (4) However, the crumbling walls of the canyon's sides make mountain climbing dangerous. (5) A guided mule trip is a safer way to see the canyon. (6) Trips down the Colorado River also enable tourists to see the canyon from the inside.

(7) Tourists can also take a helicopter or an airplane ride over the canyon. (8) From the helicopter or plane, passengers can see the different branches of the canyon. (9) The aircraft can fly into the canyon for a closer view of the river and rock formations. (10) With all of these approaches, tourists can see the canyon from above, from the inside, or from the edge.

Writing Application **Using Subjects and Verbs to Write Sentences.** Use each subject and verb in a sentence of your own.

EXAMPLE: robins chirped

In the nest baby robins chirped for food.

1. truck is stopping _____
2. girl jumped _____
3. steak shriveled _____
4. wind was shrieking _____
5. radio blared _____
6. lawnmower sputtered _____
7. automobile is wobbling _____
8. water feels _____
9. waiter dropped _____
10. newscaster hiccupped _____

20.1**Compound Subjects and Verbs • Practice 1**

Compound Subjects A compound subject is two or more subjects that have the same verb and are joined by a conjunction such as *and* or *or*.

| COMPOUND SUBJECTS |
|--|
| Mother or <u>Dad</u> <u>will pick</u> us up after the movie. |
| <u>Lobsters</u> , <u>shrimp</u> , and <u>crabs</u> <u>are</u> popular shellfish. |

Compound Verbs A compound verb is two or more verbs that have the same subject and are joined by a conjunction such as *and* or *or*.

| COMPOUND VERBS |
|--|
| The <u>waves</u> <u>crested</u> and <u>broke</u> against the rocks. |
| The <u>passers-by</u> <u>did not move</u> on but <u>stopped</u> to watch the mime. |
| <u>Paul</u> and <u>Andrew</u> <u>write</u> , <u>direct</u> , and <u>star</u> in their own plays. |

Exercise 1 **Recognizing Compound Subjects.** Underline the nouns or pronouns that make up each compound subject below.

EXAMPLE: High winds and freezing rain caused the power failure.

1. Carrots or small tomatoes would make an attractive garnish.
2. Cheese and whole-wheat crackers are a healthful snack.
3. Nancy, Darryl, and I worked on the decorations.
4. Time and the tide wait for no one.
5. In the forest, ferns and wildflowers abound.
6. Neither my brother nor I felt comfortable with those people.
7. Without your help, the table and the food would not have been ready.
8. Jason and Ulysses are characters from Greek mythology.
9. Pueblos, hogans, and tepees were common Indian dwellings.
10. In colonial times, stocks and pillories were used for punishment.

Exercise 2 **Recognizing Compound Verbs.** Underline the verbs that make up each compound verb below.

EXAMPLE: The masked stranger mounted his horse and galloped away.

1. The baby eats and sleeps on a regular schedule.
2. The photographer checked the lighting, posed the subject, and snapped the picture.
3. The paramedic did not hesitate but acted at once.
4. The captain hoisted the sail and pulled up the anchor.
5. The sick puppy neither ate nor drank.
6. The whole family baked and cooked for days before the holiday.
7. Brenda organized her note cards and began her rough draft.
8. Mike pruned and fertilized the grapefruit plant.
9. The departing dignitary neither waved nor looked back.
10. Some students seldom study but still do well.

20.1 Compound Subjects and Verbs • Practice 2

Exercise 1 **Recognizing Compound Subjects.** Underline the nouns that make up each compound subject.

EXAMPLE: The windows and doors are locked.

1. Both flowers and perfume cause her to sneeze.
2. David and Marie both failed to win the prize.
3. Neither pets nor pianos are allowed in the apartment.
4. Lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers grew in the garden.
5. Hurricanes and tornadoes cause much damage to property every year.

Exercise 2 **Recognizing Compound Verbs.** Underline the verbs that make up each compound verb.

EXAMPLE: I studied hard and passed the test.

1. The car suddenly skidded on the ice and hit the curb.
2. Winds howled through the night but died down at dawn.
3. Hercules lifted Antaeus from the ground and crushed him.
4. Sports medicine is a relatively new field and offers many opportunities for careers.
5. The duck waddled down the bank, splashed into the water, and paddled to safety.
6. My brother and I built a rowboat in 1979 and used it on the lake the next year.
7. We washed the dishes and put them away.
8. He survived the war but died soon after.
9. The Romans erected buildings in brick and then faced them with marble.
10. We rehearsed the play for three weeks, had a dress rehearsal, and then gave a performance.

Writing Application **Writing Sentences with Compound Subjects and Verbs.** Use the following items to write ten sentences of your own. Use the first three items as compound subjects, the next three as compound verbs, and the last four as compound subjects and verbs.

EXAMPLE: dog squirrel

Our dog and a squirrel raced around the yard.

1. jumper sprinter _____
2. beaches docks _____
3. guitarist drummer composer _____
4. stamped screamed _____
5. dribbled tossed _____
6. nods smiles _____
7. orchestra conductor bowed disappeared

8. horses riders galloped trotted

9. clown acrobat stumbled fell rose

10. vans trucks cost carry
