

SUBJECTS

A **subject** of a sentence is the person, place, or thing that the sentence is about. In order to find the subject of a sentence, ask "who" or "what" the sentence is about. The answer will be the subject of the sentence. The subject tells you who or what does something or exists in a certain way.

The **simple subject** is the specific word or words that identifies who or what the sentence is about without any additional or descriptive words. It is the key noun or pronoun in the sentence. When referring to the subject of a sentence, it is usually the **simple subject** that is being referenced.

The subject can be either a **noun** or a **pronoun**.

A **noun** names a person, place, or thing. It can name a specific person, place, or thing, or it can name a nonspecific person, place, or thing.

Examples:

man, technician, Jack, apple, Red Delicious, dog, Lassie, store, Sears & Roebuck, holiday, Easter, woman, Jane Brown, computer, Hewlett Packard

A **pronoun** (*I, you, he, she, it, they, who, or we*) stands in for a noun. Writers use pronouns to avoid repeating nouns.

Sentence Examples:

The children laughed.

Most students passed the test.

Tuition at this school is the second lowest in the state.

Many people in this city do not know about the proposed industrial park.

They both like to eat pizza.

As a surprise to his mother, Joshua prepared dinner and washed the dishes.

A fox dashed across the road.

The cook wore a clean, white apron.

News of the train accident spread quickly.

John Doe is a name used for an unknown man

I work.

After June's morning classes, she works at the local restaurant until midnight several days a week.

Her schedule is exhausting.

A sentence may have **compound subjects** – more than one subject.

Sentence Examples:

Sally and I are exactly the same height and weight.

He and she did not know each other although they lived in the same apartment building.

Maple syrup and butter or strawberries and whipped cream taste delicious on pancakes and waffles.

Fear and ignorance have a lot to do with hatred.

Your time and your energy are needed on this project.

Joan and her brothers bought their parents a 54" television for their anniversary.

Both Senator Polanski and Governor Perry favor the proposed jobs bill.

Responsible parents and dedicated teachers expect children to do well in school.

Excellent organization, thorough planning, and advance preparation are three outstanding habits for students.

The **subject** usually comes *before* the **verb**, but sometimes the order is reversed with the subject coming *after* the verb. A sentence that asks a question and statements that begin with "Here is" or "There are" are two examples of this type of sentence.

Sentence Examples:

Is the soup hot enough?

There were twenty people on a waiting list for that apartment.

Here are the folders.

There are twenty teams in the tournament.

Is the storm over yet?

In the kitchen drawer were three dirty knives.

Is the exam next Tuesday or next Wednesday?

Beside the peaceful brook sat Rusty and his dog.

When will you be done drying your hair?

There is no hope of winning.

When a sentence gives a command or makes a request, the subject may not be written out. If the subject is not written out, it is understood to be "you."

Sentence Examples:

Get out of here right now! (**You** get out . . .)

Please bring me the newspaper. (**You** please bring me . . .)

Leave me alone. (**You** leave me . . .)