

Grammar

Part Five: The Sentence and Its Parts

Identifying Subjects

The **subject** is the part of the sentence that is *doing* or *being*. **Subjects** work with **verbs** to form a sentence.

Unlike subjects, **objects** have something being done *to them*.

An alarm went off in Daniel's room.
Subject Verb Object

The **subject** is not always at the beginning of a sentence, and it can be one or more words.

Subjects also do not need to be living things.

Until today, Mike always ran to Cindy's house.
Subject Verb

Why is it dark?
Verb Subject

All the papers flew off my desk.
Subject Verb

Identifying Subjects in the Middle of a Sentence

The **subject** is the part of the sentence that is *doing* or *being*. **Subjects** work with **verbs** to form a sentence.

The **subject** is not always at the beginning of a sentence, and it can be one or more words.

After the awards show, **we** **went** to Craig's victory party.
Subject Verb

Until today, **they** always **ran** to school.
Subject Verb

Why **is** **it** spotted?
Verb Subject

The old man **flew** down the street on his skates.
Subject Verb

Identifying Subjects: *it*

The **subject** is the part of the sentence that is *doing* or *being*. **Subjects** work with **verbs** to form a sentence.

It **is** Frank's favorite day of the year!
Subject Verb

The **subject** is not always at the beginning of a sentence. Even small words like **it** can be the subject of a sentence.

Until this year, **it** always **rained** on the first day of school.
Subject Verb

Why **is** **it** purple?
Verb Subject

It **flew** down from the tree and landed on Jennifer's head.
Subject Verb

Identifying Action Verbs

Layla **plays** on her school's softball team.

Action verbs describe what someone (or something) does.

Tony **dances** every Tuesday after school.

Sara and Ricky **cooked** dinner together.

Candice **dreams** of becoming a doctor.

Identifying the Verb that Goes with a Direct Object

Direct objects tell us *who?* or *what?* about a **verb**.

Karen **found** **a clue**. *(Who or what did Karen find? A clue.)*
Subject Verb Direct Object

Direct objects can be nouns, pronouns, phrases, or clauses. They always follow their **verb**.

Karen **kicked** **the soccer ball** into the net.
Verb Direct Object

After searching for her key for hours, Sue **found** **it** in her pocket.
Verb Direct Object

Jackson **hates** **washing his socks** but **loves** **scrubbing dishes**.
Verb Direct Object Verb Direct Object

Indirect objects can go between a **verb** and its direct object and tell us *to whom* or *for whom* an action happens.

Jordan **bought** **his uncle** **a new lawnmower**.
Verb Indirect Object Direct Object

On her birthday, Ronnie **sent** **his math teacher** **beautiful flowers**.
Verb Indirect Object Direct Object

Identifying Prepositions

A **preposition** shows the relationship between a noun and other words in a sentence.

Prepositions often give us details about *where* or *when*.

Lucy and her cousin jumped **on** the **bed**.
Preposition Noun ("Object of the preposition")

Mike put his backpack **under** his **desk**.
Preposition Noun

After **lunch**, Kerrie and I went salsa dancing.
Preposition Noun

Where Prepositions

behind	toward
onto	near
within	outside
from	past

When Prepositions

before	since
between	throughout
after	through
during	until

Recognizing Complete Thoughts

Complete thoughts express a full idea.

Incomplete thoughts can attach to complete thoughts to form a sentence.

My neighbor lent me his PlayStation **because I helped him mow the lawn.**
Complete Thought Incomplete Thought

If you're struggling to tell if something is a complete or incomplete thought, try reading it aloud. Does the statement feel finished?

Complete:	The girls went to the park because they wanted to go on the slide.
Complete:	It's raining. I'm cold. Are you hungry?
Incomplete:	Jumping up and down, spinning in circles.
Incomplete:	On the radio with a loud voice.

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Identifying Dependent Clauses

A **clause** is a group of words that contains a subject and a verb.

A **dependent clause** adds information to an independent clause, and it cannot stand alone as a sentence.

An **independent clause** is a complete thought that can stand alone as a sentence.

My English teacher has a jacket **that she found at the zoo.**

Independent Clause Dependent Clause

If you're struggling to tell if a clause is dependent or independent, try reading it aloud. Does the statement feel finished?

Independent: The girls went to the park because they wanted to go on the slide.
Independent: It's raining. I'm cold. Are you hungry?
Dependent: That I plan to bring to every meeting for the rest of the year.
Dependent: Because she was a kind person.

Identifying Independent and Dependent Clauses

An **independent clause** is a complete thought that can stand alone as a sentence.

A **dependent clause** adds information to an independent clause, and it cannot stand alone as a sentence.

While he was sleeping, Dave had a dream about a furry alien.
SWABI + complete thought Independent Clause
Dependent Clause

Adding a **subordinating conjunction (SWABI)** to a complete thought creates a dependent clause.

Dave needs help with his homework **because he missed class yesterday.**

After the school dance, Lucy and I went out for ice cream.

If you're struggling to tell if something is a complete or incomplete thought, try reading it aloud. Does the statement feel finished, or like it was cut short?

Here are some examples of complete and incomplete thoughts:

Complete: The girls went to the park because they wanted to go on the slide.
Complete: It's raining. I'm cold. Are you hungry?
Incomplete: Jumping up and down, spinning in circles.
Incomplete: On the radio with a loud voice.

PRACTICE!