Unit 1: Subjects, Predicates, and Sentences

Lesson 1 Kinds of Sentences: Declarative and Interrogative

A group of words that expresses a complete thought is a sentence. All sentences begin with a capital letter. A declarative sentence makes a statement. It ends with a period. An interrogative sentence asks a question. It ends with a question mark.

Florida summers are very hot. (declarative)
Are summers in Florida very hot? (interrogative)

Exercise 1 Write in the blank dec. (declarative) if the sentence makes a statement or int. (interrogative) if the sentence asks a question.

Example: int. Can you help me with my algebra?

_____ 1. I’m going swimming today.
_____ 2. Is the president addressing the nation on television tonight?
_____ 3. My grandfather was an army sergeant.
_____ 4. Mitchell plans to audition for the choir.
_____ 5. Margaret bought this dress in Mexico.
_____ 6. Claire, will you help me practice my lines?
_____ 7. Are you going to camp this summer?
_____ 8. You are good at solving puzzles.
_____ 9. How long did it take you to read The Red Badge of Courage?
_____ 10. Our soccer team won the league championship.
_____ 11. The butterfly slowly unfolded its wings.
_____ 12. The wind knocked down a large tree.
_____ 13. Have you met the new teacher yet?
_____ 14. Which wrestlers won their matches?
_____ 15. The title of the mystery novel was misleading.

Lesson 2 Kinds of Sentences: Exclamatory and Imperative

A sentence may do more than express a statement or ask a question. An exclamatory sentence expresses a strong emotion. It ends with an exclamation point. An imperative sentence gives a command or makes a request. It ends with a period.

Look out! (strong emotion)
Don’t forget the party Saturday. (command)
Please mail these letters on your way to Janet’s house. (request)

Exercise 1 Write in the blank exc. (exclamatory) if the sentence expresses a strong feeling. Write imp. (imperative) if the sentence gives a command or makes a request. Add a period or an exclamation point as needed.

Example: Imp. Remember to keep your eyes on the ball at all times.

_____ 1. Don’t stay up too late
_____ 2. What a terrific day we had at the zoo
_____ 3. Watch out for that low branch
_____ 4. Tell me more about your fishing trip
_____ 5. Don’t run in the halls
_____ 6. Buy more glue when you go to the store
_____ 7. Clean up your desk, please
_____ 8. Let’s go watch the parade
_____ 9. That muddy dog just stole my hamburger
_____ 10. Try to solve the puzzle before the contestant does
11. Let the baby sleep
12. Oh, you just sat in some wet paint
13. Feed the dog at the same time every day
14. Turn in your book report next week
15. I can't wait until Grandma gets here

Lesson 3 Sentence Fragments

Every sentence must have a subject and a predicate to express a complete thought. The subject part of a sentence names who or what the sentence is about. The predicate part tells what the subject does or has. It can also describe what the subject is or is like.

SUBJECT PREDICATE

My friend Joel will play in the volleyball tournament.

A sentence fragment is a group of words that lacks a subject, a predicate, or both. A fragment does not express a complete thought.

Will play in the volleyball tournament. (lacks a subject)
My friend Joel. (lacks a predicate)
Without a doubt. (lacks both a subject and a predicate)
Without a doubt, my friend Joel will play in the volleyball tournament. (expresses a complete thought)

Exercise 1 Write sentence in the blank before each word group that expresses a complete thought. Write fragment next to each word group that does not express a complete thought.

Example: fragment Wore her warmest sweater.

1. The survivors of the earthquake showed great courage.
2. Caused problems everywhere.
3. Every Sunday their family went hiking.
4. Even the rain couldn’t dampen their spirits.
5. Rode calmly and quietly in the backseat.
6. Rose in the air like a bird.
7. Of his meal untouched.
8. Hundreds of firefighters fought the forest fires last summer.
9. The thought escaped him.

10. As fragile as glass.
11. In the park for our picnic.
12. Our newspaper arrived late on Tuesday.
13. Janette, who’s coming at four.
14. Simply everywhere.
15. Postponed for the second time.
16. Ted climbed to the top of the stadium.
17. They played their very best.
18. In every nook and cranny.
19. Available at five o’clock.
20. She was preparing her résumé.

Exercise 2 Write a complete sentence by adding a subject, a predicate, or both to each sentence fragment. Punctuate your sentences correctly. Answers may vary.

Example: Grinned and cackled. The ugly troll grinned and cackled.

1. Marla and Kimberly.
2. On the shelves.
3. Dusted the books.
4. Maple and elm trees.
5. Greeted Eloisa.
6. At the library.
7. John Kimura the dentist.
8. Looked at Isabel.
9. Flat, sandy fields.
10. The mystery of space.
Lesson 4 Subjects and Predicates: Simple and Complete

Both a subject and a predicate may consist of more than one word. The complete subject includes all of the words in the subject part of a sentence. The complete predicate includes all of the words in the predicate part of a sentence.

COMPLETE SUBJECT COMPLETE PREDICATE
My younger brother likes alphabet soup for lunch.

The simple subject is the main word or group of words in the complete subject. The simple predicate is always a verb, a word or words that express an action or a state of being.

SIMPLE SUBJECT SIMPLE PREDICATE
My younger brother likes alphabet soup for lunch.

Exercise 1 Draw a vertical line between the complete subject and the complete predicate.

Example: People call Australia the continent “down under.”

1. Australia is one of the most spectacular countries in the world.
2. The country is both the smallest continent and the largest island.
3. This small continent lies in the Southern Hemisphere.
4. The coastline of Australia is irregular.
5. It measures 12,210 miles.
6. The island state of Tasmania once formed the southeastern corner of the mainland.
7. The Great Barrier Reef continues along the eastern coast for 1,250 miles.
8. Four species of coral reef compose the chain of reefs and islands.
9. Australia’s western regions form a great plateau.
10. The climate ranges from temperate to tropical.

Exercise 2 Draw one line under the simple subject and two lines under the simple predicate.

Example: Australia has many unique plants and animals.

1. Forests cover the east coast of Tasmania.
2. The forests consist mainly of pine trees.
3. The dingo is a doglike animal.
4. It hunts sheep.
5. Dingoes prey on kangaroos as well.

Lesson 5 Subjects and Predicates: Compound

A sentence may have more than one simple subject or simple predicate.

A compound subject is two or more simple subjects that have the same predicate. The subjects are joined by and, or, either...or, neither...nor, or but.

Oregon and Washington lie in the Pacific Northwest. (compound subject)

A compound predicate is two or more simple predicates, or verbs, that have the same subject. The verbs are connected by and, or, either...or, neither...nor, or but.

Many people neither enjoy nor appreciate modern art. (compound predicate)

Exercise 1 Each of these sentences has either a compound subject, a compound predicate, or both. Draw one line under the simple subjects in each compound subject. Draw two lines under the simple predicates in each compound predicate.

Example: Water streamed across the street and ran into the gutter.

1. Apples and pears grow on trees.
2. Workers pick apples and package them for sale.
3. Joi and her sisters sang for the congregation.
4. Wes or Raquel showed the office to the guests.
5. We ate and slept on the bus.
6. The ceiling and the walls are the same color.
7. Both Arizona and New Mexico have hot deserts.
8. Thoughtful neighbors and friends of the family sent sympathy cards.
9. Either red or blue clashes with this color.
10. Copper and iron have many uses.

Lesson 6 Simple and Compound Sentences

A **simple sentence** has one subject and one predicate. The subject and the predicate in a simple sentence may be simple or compound.

**SUBJECT**  **PREDICATE**
Oscar fed the dog.
Oscar and Cathy fed and groomed the dog.

A **compound sentence** contains two or more simple sentences joined by a comma and a coordinating conjunction (or, nor, and, either...or, neither...nor, but) or by a semicolon.

Oscar fed the dog, and he groomed him.
Oscar’s dog likes to run; Cathy’s dog prefers to sleep.

Two or more simple sentences joined incorrectly result in a run-on sentence. Correct a run-on sentence by writing separate sentences, by adding a comma and a conjunction, or by adding a semicolon.

Patti practiced every day for the recital she played flawlessly. (run-on)
Patti practiced every day for the recital. She played flawlessly. (separated)
Patti practiced every day for the recital, and she played flawlessly. (joined by a comma and a conjunction)
Patti practiced every day for the recital; she played flawlessly. (joined by a semicolon)

Exercise 1 Write **S** in the blank before each simple sentence, **C** before each compound sentence, and **R** before each run-on sentence.

**Example:**  **C** The trumpets blared, and the king entered the room.

______  1. Ketchup makes french fries taste better.
______  2. I walked and walked for days.
______  3. Hydrogen has weight, but you can’t weigh it on an ordinary scale.
______  4. Air is taken into the lungs oxygen is absorbed into the bloodstream.
______  5. You can buy your ticket in advance, or you can buy it at the door.
______  6. Radar detects objects in darkness and bad weather.
______  7. Humans can’t see well in the dark, nor can they hear sounds more than about one kilometer away.
______  8. I read it, but I didn’t understand it.
______  9. Korean foods and Thai foods can be very spicy.
______ 10. You can ask questions, but you may not find the answers.

Exercise 2 Draw one line under each simple subject and two lines under each simple predicate. Circle each coordinating conjunction (bolded in the example).

Stuart dialed the phone, and he waited for someone to answer.

1. The athletes ran for a long time, and they breathed hard.
2. I went there last year, but I cancelled my reservation this year.
3. She called me, but she wrote more often.
4. I studied hard, and I passed the test.
5. Did you find it, or do you need my help?