

Understanding Subjects

Exploring Subjects

- There are three items that work together to form a complete sentence. They are:
 1. Subjects
 2. Verbs
 3. Complete Thought
- Without the subject or verb, there cannot be a complete thought.
- In this lesson, you will learn about **subjects**.

What is a Subject?

The subject of a sentence is a noun, pronoun or noun phrase that controls the main verb.

For example:

- When the subject is a noun: **The coach yelled at his players.**
- When the subject is a pronoun: **She didn't like the lemon flavor.**
- When the subject is a noun phrase: **My suitcase is completely packed.**

TIP Remember, if the noun phrase is a subject, the entire subject may contain other parts of speech besides a noun.

Examples:

He and his dog went for a walk.

- A conjunction may be included within the subject, as in the noun phrase, "*He and his dog,*" which is the subject of the sentence.

The red rose bloomed early.

- An adjective may be included, as in the noun phrase, "the *red* rose" (*red* is an adjective), which is the subject of the sentence.

Understanding Subjects Questions

Part 1 Directions:

Underline the subject in each of the following sentences. Remember, the subject is the “who” or “what” word or phrase.

1. The little duckling waddled after its mother.
2. Heavy traffic filled the city’s well-lighted streets.
3. My uncle’s chauffeur drove the Rolls Royce across town.
4. The wanderer answered the troll’s three questions correctly.
5. Gliding toward us at the edge of the pond was a graceful swan.
6. The reigning heavyweight champion of the world will be boxing tonight at Madison Square Garden.
7. Overlooking the terraced gardens below was an elegant tearoom.
8. Heavy fighting broke out on the West Bank of Gaza this morning.
9. Many Western pharmaceuticals come from rainforest ingredients.
10. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency launched a program for achieving environmental goals regarding acid rain.
11. Diligence in schoolwork, standardized test scores, and extracurricular activities are important components of getting accepted into a university.
12. The forest ranger at Yellowstone National Park said not to feed the bears.
13. Well known for traveling across the sky with her umbrella is the famous Mary Poppins.
14. Grams, Dad, Tyler and I sprang a surprise birthday party for Mom last night.
15. The congregation’s favorite Christmas hymns are recorded on a special CD.
16. The haggard, filthy, one-eyed pirate drew his sword and began to battle the ship’s crew.
17. By 12:01 a.m. on New Year’s Day my baby brother was born.
18. Truth is stranger than fiction.

Understanding Subjects Questions

Part 2 Directions:

Give each sentence a subject. An “S” designates a singular subject; a “P” designates a plural subject. Do not use pronouns. (Some sentences must have two subjects inserted.)

Ex.: After becoming rodeo cowboys, began to travel the circuit. (P)
After becoming rodeo cowboys, Paul and Ross began to travel the circuit.

1. Pulled over at the roadside stand to buy some fireworks. (P)

_____.

2. Since wants to become a professional singer, should give her singing lessons. (S) (S)

_____.

3. Last week, came to visit all the way from Montreal. (P)

_____.

4. Quacking after its mother came a. (S)

_____.

5. Were chosen to fight wildcats in the Coliseum. (P)

_____.

Part 3 Directions:

Write a subject to complete the sentence.

Ex.: The Lakers team piled into the bus and headed back home.

1. _____ sat across from each other to play chess.

2. _____ is my favorite TV show.

3. Tearing down the highway at speeds exceeding 100 mph was _____.

4. Beautiful to look at and expensive to own is _____.

5. Lined up in three neat rows, _____ posed for their annual picture.

6. After their meeting was over, _____ left the boardroom.

Understanding Subjects Answers

Part 1

1. The little duckling waddled after its mother.
2. Heavy traffic filled the city's well-lighted streets.
3. My uncle's chauffeur drove the Rolls Royce across town.
4. The wanderer answered the troll's three questions correctly.
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Understanding Subjects Answers (cont'd)

Part 2: Answers will vary.

1. Pulled over at the roadside stand to buy some fireworks. (P)
Dad and I pulled over at the roadside stand to buy some fireworks.
2. Since wants to become a professional singer, should give her singing lessons. (S) (S)
Since Sherri wants to become a professional singer, Ted should give her singing lessons.
3. Last week, came to visit all the way from Montreal. (P)
Last week, Dennis and his family came to visit all the way from Montreal.
4. Quacking after its mother came. (S)
Quacking after its mother came a fragile duckling.
5. Were chosen to fight wildcats in the Coliseum. (P)
Gladiators were chosen to fight wildcats in the Coliseum.

Part 3: Answers will vary.

1. Chester and Herb sat across from each other to play chess.
2. Heroes is my favorite TV show.
3. Tearing down the highway at speeds exceeding 100 mph were two highway patrolmen.
4. Beautiful to look at and expensive to own is jewelry from Tiffany's.
5. Lined up in three neat rows, the powder puff varsity team posed for their annual picture.
6. After their meeting was over, the members left the boardroom.