

SUBJECTS

Finding Subjects

Essential parts of a sentence:

□ Subjects

- Name a person, place, thing or idea that the sentence is about.
- Must be a noun or pronoun

□ Verbs

- Tell the reader something about the subject
- Tell what the subject does
- Tell the condition of the subject

Finding Subjects: Steps

- Identify and ignore prepositional phrases
 - ▣ The bee is stinging me (on my arm.)
- Find whole verb
 - ▣ The bee is stinging me (on my arm.)
- Ask “Who?” or “What?” and say the verb
 - ▣ Who is stinging? The *bee* is stinging.
 - ▣ The bee is stinging me (on my arm.)
- Example: We cried (after the accident.)

More Details about Finding Subjects

- A subject is never in a prepositional phrase.
 - The bumper (of the car) had been damaged.
- A subject can be an indefinite pronoun.
 - Everyone (at the game) wore team colors.
- A possessive pronoun is never the subject.
 - Our team won the last game.
- A possessive noun is never the subject.
 - Martina's dog is adorable!

Subjects may be in unusual places

- *Here* and *there* are never subjects.
 - Here is the book (for you.)
- Subjects and verbs may be inverted.
 - (From the rubble) emerged a weary, young boy.
- In commands, the subject is always understood *you*.
 - Please wash the dishes. (You wash ...)
- In questions, subject often falls between parts of verb.
 - When do you plant tomatoes (in the spring)?

Compound Subjects and Verbs in Simple Sentences

- Compound subjects
 - ▣ Evelyn and Dora play together (at recess.)
- Compound verbs
 - ▣ Evelyn swims and plays soccer.
- Compound subjects and verbs
 - ▣ Evelyn and Dora play and sing together (at recess.)

Summary

- Subjects and verbs are essential parts of sentences.
- Subjects must be noun or pronoun.
- Steps for finding subjects:
 - ▣ Identify and ignore prepositional phrases
 - ▣ Find whole verb
 - ▣ Ask “Who? or What?”
- Example:
 - ▣ Tonya’s cat scratched me (on my face.)