

## WORKSHEET 4

## Identifying the Simple Subject and the Simple Predicate

**EXERCISE A** In each of the following sentences, circle the simple subject and underline the simple predicate, or verb. If the subject is the understood *you*, write *you* in parentheses after the sentence.

EXAMPLES 1. How can (humans) help to save endangered species?

2. Carry the chair into the other room. (you)

1. The Korean martial art of tae kwon do has become internationally popular.
2. Do earthquakes cause tidal waves?
3. Please help Pedro with those boxes.
4. How does a hibernating animal avoid starvation?
5. Mr. Talbot plays the sitar, an instrument from India.
6. Helena Rubinstein built a profitable cosmetics empire.
7. One spring there was a violent tornado in Illinois.
8. There are many differences between an alligator and a crocodile.
9. The telephone wires were severely damaged by the storm.
10. In Mrs. Kim's purse were some valuable papers.

**EXERCISE B** In each of the following sentences, circle the simple subject and underline the simple predicate, or verb. If the subject is the understood *you*, write *you* in parentheses after the sentence. Include all parts of a compound subject, a compound verb, or a verb phrase.

EXAMPLE 1. (Brett) and (Eartha) will probably win the election.

1. In Ms. Thomas's class, we are studying the works of Sandra Cisneros.
2. Do any animals thrive in Death Valley?
3. Parasol ants raise their own crop of mushrooms.
4. What does this signal mean to an airplane pilot?
5. Boys and girls busily washed the dishes and cleaned the house.
6. One of the modern poets is Gwendolyn Brooks.
7. Have the police been notified yet?
8. Did you or she write and send this note?
9. By how much did the committee underestimate our expenses?
10. Open the box and look inside.

**WORKSHEET 5** Identifying the Simple Predicate

**EXERCISE A** Draw a line under the complete predicate and a circle around the simple predicate, or verb, in each of the following sentences. If the parts of a verb are separated, be sure to circle each part.

**EXAMPLE 1.** The moon will then pass between the earth and the sun.

1. Mexican mariachi bands usually include violins, guitars, and trumpets.
2. Your help has always been valuable to me.
3. Worst of all is the multiple-choice spelling test.
4. Sea urchins have many movable spines.
5. August Wilson's play *The Piano Lesson* is set in the 1930s.
6. Did the burglar have a key to the store?
7. The surgeon did not recommend an immediate operation.
8. Is the pilot light of the furnace still burning?
9. Have you ever heard of a Caesar salad?
10. A diet limited to proteins and fats would actually starve a rat to death.

**EXERCISE B** Underline the simple predicate, or verb, in each of the following sentences. Be sure to include all parts of a verb phrase.

**EXAMPLE 1.** I have always enjoyed reading mythical stories.

1. Folk tales and legends have filled the world with imaginary creatures.
2. Many of these creatures are composed of parts of various real animals.
3. The mythical mantichora had the face of a man, the body of a lion, and the tail of a scorpion.
4. This powerful beast could run very fast.
5. According to legend, the mantichora would devour a person with its three rows of teeth.
6. A glance at Medusa could also be a fatal occurrence.
7. Medusa, a creature with a woman's body and face, grew snakes from her head as hair.
8. One look at Medusa's face would turn unlucky viewers into stone.
9. The griffin was formed from the head and wings of an eagle and the body of a lion.
10. The Chimera is commonly pictured with the head of a lion, the body of a goat, and the tail of a serpent.

## Simple Subjects

### Teaching

The **simple subject** is the main word or words in the complete subject. Words that describe the subject are not part of the simple subject. In the following sentences, the simple subjects are underlined.

Athletes all over the world enjoy extreme sports.

COMPLETE SUBJECT

COMPLETE PREDICATE

If a proper name is used as the subject, all parts of the name make up the simple subject.

Dr. Evans at the sports clinic treats many sports injuries.

COMPLETE SUBJECT

COMPLETE PREDICATE

### Identifying Simple Subjects

Underline the simple subject in each sentence.

1. Extreme sports are a new kind of entertainment.
2. Participants in these sports sometimes ignore the danger.
3. The athletes enjoy the great challenge in each sport.
4. Great skill is needed for mountain biking.
5. The rider travels down a high hill or mountain on a narrow track.
6. A cross-country biker follows a rough course over a long distance.
7. The position of the rider's body is very important in mountain biking.
8. Only brave swimmers use surfboards in giant waves.
9. A new extreme sport is body surfing.
10. The body surfer rides the waves without a board.
11. Both arms of the body surfer must be extended in front.
12. The feet must be together.
13. Body surfers on a wave dive underwater as they get close to the beach.
14. Another popular ocean sport is body boarding.
15. Regular surfers stand on their surfboards.
16. Body boarders lie down on their stomachs.
17. Some athletes do spinners and El Rollos on their body boards.
18. Another extreme sport is skydiving.
19. Several sites on the Internet give information about extreme sports.
20. Sports equipment is also advertised.

## Simple Predicates, or Verbs

*Teaching*

The **simple predicate**, or **verb**, is the main word or words in the complete predicate. In the following sentence, the simple predicate, or verb, is underlined.

Many unusual plants grow in the rain forest. (*grow in the rain forest* is the complete predicate)

VERB

The verb can be a single word as in the sentence above, or a **verb phrase**, as in the sentence below.

Exotic animals can be found there.

VERB PHRASE

**Verbs** are words used to express actions, conditions, or states of being. **Linking verbs** tell what the subject is. **Action verbs** tell what the subject does, even when the action cannot be seen.

### Identifying Simple Predicates, or Verbs

Underline the simple predicate, or verb, in each sentence.

1. Most of the rain forests grow near the equator.
2. The temperature in the rain forest remains hot all year long.
3. Rain falls nearly every day in some part of the forest.
4. Humid air makes the rain forest uncomfortable for most people.
5. More types of trees grow in the rain forest than anywhere else on earth.
6. Some trees reach 200 feet in height.
7. The trees block the sunlight from the floor of the forest.
8. People walk through the forest with little trouble.
9. Some rain forests contain a jungle.
10. A jungle forms in certain sunny areas of the forest.
11. Dense plant growth makes travel through the jungle difficult.
12. Rain forests harbor about half of all the species of plants in the world.
13. Flowering plants bloom all year long.
14. Air plants thrive on the branches of trees.
15. Ferns and orchids are two kinds of air plants.
16. Other plants twine around the branches and trunks of trees.
17. Many different kinds of birds and reptiles live in the forest.
18. Colorful parrots eat fruits and nuts from the trees.
19. Monkeys swing from tree to tree.
20. Lizards and snakes slither among the branches.

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## Verb Phrases

## Teaching

The simple predicate, or verb, may consist of two or more words. These words are called the **verb phrase**. A verb phrase is made up of a main verb and one or more helping verbs.

A **main verb** can stand by itself as the simple predicate of a sentence.

The human brain directs our bodies.

MAIN VERB (ACTION)

Our brain is very important.

MAIN VERB (LINKING)

Helping verbs help the main verb express action or show time.

The brain could be called the body's control center. (*could be* is the helping verb; *called* is the main verb)

### Common Helping Verbs

Forms of be	is, am, are, was, were, be, been
Forms of do	do, does, did
Forms of have	has, have, had
Others	may, might, can, could, will, would, shall, should

## Identifying Verb Phrases

Underline the verb phrase in each sentence. Include main verbs and helping verbs.

1. The human brain is receiving messages all the time.
2. Some messages are telling the brain about conditions in the body.
3. Our senses will send messages about the world around us.
4. The brain can process the messages very quickly.
5. It can guide the body's reactions in an instant.
6. Our brain could be compared to a library, a storage area of information.
7. Even our thoughts and emotions are coming from the brain.
8. No other animals' brains have developed as highly as human brains.
9. I can do many activities impossible for other animals.
10. What other animal can write a song or a poem?
11. Do you know the three main parts of the brain?
12. The cerebrum has been studied by many scientists.
13. Damage to the cerebellum might cause a problem with balance.
14. Certain body functions are controlled by the brain stem.
15. Special x-ray machines may teach us more about the brain.
16. Some brain diseases have been discovered with these machines.

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**Verb Phrases****More Practice****A. Identifying Main Verbs and Helping Verbs**

Underline the main verb once and the helping verb twice in each of the following sentences.

**EXAMPLE** Scientists are learning new information about the brain.

1. The human brain is studied by many kinds of scientists.
2. Some have been looking at the chemicals in the brain.
3. The wrong balance of chemicals could change our thoughts or actions.
4. Other scientists are learning about diseases of the brain.
5. They might study brain waves with special instruments.
6. Powerful machines can take detailed pictures of the brain.
7. Doctors may try new medicines for certain diseases.
8. Some researchers are studying processes of thought and memory.
9. Exactly how does the brain work?
10. We may know the answer to that question in the future.

**B. Writing Verb Phrases**

Add a helping verb to complete the verb phrase in each sentence below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ you understand the thought patterns of animals?
2. Scientists \_\_\_\_\_ been doing studies on animal brains.
3. For a long time they \_\_\_\_\_ known that the brains of other animals are more simple than human ones.
4. They \_\_\_\_\_ know for sure that worms and insects have groups of nerve cells.
5. These animals \_\_\_\_\_ gather information from their senses.
6. They \_\_\_\_\_ react to things but cannot think.
7. The brains of sharks and other fish \_\_\_\_\_ remained rather simple over time.
8. These animals \_\_\_\_\_ listed far below squirrels in brain power.
9. The chimpanzee's brain \_\_\_\_\_ be classified as most like the human brain.
10. No one \_\_\_\_\_ discovered an organ as complex as the human brain.

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## Compound Sentence Parts

### Teaching

A **compound subject** is made up of two or more subjects that share the same verb. The subjects are joined by a conjunction, or connecting word, such as *and*, *or*, or *but*.

Dogs and cats are the most common household pets.

COMPOUND SUBJECT

PREDICATE

A **compound verb** is made up of two or more verbs that share the same subject. The verbs are joined by a conjunction such as *and*, *or*, or *but*.

Unusual pets demand and receive more care.

SUBJECT

COMPOUND VERB

## Identifying Compound Sentence Parts

In each sentence, underline the words in the compound subject or the compound verb. Do not underline the conjunctions that join the words. On the line to the right, write **CS** for compound subject or **CV** for compound verb.

1. Canaries and parakeets are popular pets. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Some canaries sing and chirp merrily all day long. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Parakeets say and repeat words and sounds. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Tropical fish and goldfish are also common pets. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Fancy aquariums or plain glass bowls are in many homes. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Lively fish dart and hide among the rocks and seaweed on the bottom of the tank. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Hamsters or guinea pigs make good pets for people who live in a city. \_\_\_\_\_
8. These animals mainly eat and play in small cages. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Proper food and water are necessary for all pets. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Many pets enjoy and appreciate special treats occasionally. \_\_\_\_\_
11. In the country, some children raise and train different farm animals. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Horses and goats may become their pets. \_\_\_\_\_
13. Sometimes, rabbits or chickens are raised as pets. \_\_\_\_\_
14. Any pet grows and thrives in a caring home. \_\_\_\_\_
15. Neither wild animals nor exotic reptiles should be kept as pets. \_\_\_\_\_
16. Some untamed animals chew or rip furniture. \_\_\_\_\_
17. Others carry and spread unusual diseases among the family. \_\_\_\_\_
18. Loyal pets and caring owners make the best combination of all. \_\_\_\_\_

# Subjects in Unusual Order

Teaching

In most **questions**, the subject comes after the verb or between parts of the verb phrase.

Are you healthy? (*you* is the subject; *are* is the verb)

Do you have agility? (*you* is the subject; *Do have* is the verb phrase)

The subject of a **command**, or imperative sentence, is usually *you*. Often, *you* doesn't appear in the sentence because it is implied, or understood.

Practice that maneuver.

VERB (The implied subject is *you*.)

In an inverted sentence, the subject comes after the verb.

Up the mountain climbed the brave hiker.

VERB

SUBJECT

In some sentences beginning with the words *here* or *there*, the subject follows the verb. You find the subject by looking at the words that follow the verb.

Here is a steep cliff. There were many climbers on the mountain.

VERB

SUBJECT

VERB

SUBJECT

## Finding Subjects and Verbs in Unusual Positions

In the following sentences, underline the simple subject once and the verb or verb phrase twice. If the subject is understood, write **You** in parentheses on the line.

1. Do you know anything about mountain climbing? \_\_\_\_\_
2. There are people in love with the sport. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Are you one of them? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Has anyone tried that steep trail? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Here are some suggestions for safe climbing. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Hike with others, not alone. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Choose your path carefully. \_\_\_\_\_
8. There should be an emergency plan in case of danger. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Over the sharp rocks stumbled the weary climber. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Here comes a rockslide! \_\_\_\_\_
11. Around the mountain climbers howled the fierce snowstorm. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Are your hiking boots waterproof? \_\_\_\_\_