

PRACTICE 5

Identifying Subjects, Verbs, and Objects

Look at each sentence. Underline the subject once and write S above it. Underline the verb twice, and write V above it. Circle the object (if there is one), and write O above it. Some sentences have more than one verb and object.

1. My youngest brother ^S is ^V in high school.
2. He ^S watches ^V TV ^O and does ^V his homework ^O at the same time.
3. He works at a department store.
4. He likes his job but doesn't like his boss.
5. His job is easy and pays well.
6. This semester, he is taking extra classes.
7. He became a computer programmer at the age of 16.
8. He speaks and understands English very well.
9. On weekends, he plays soccer with his friends.
10. He doesn't have a friend yet.

PRACTICE 6

Editing Subject and Verb Errors

Work alone or with a partner. Find the seven missing subjects and verbs in the paragraph. Make corrections.

Larry's Bad Habit

My friend Larry ^{has} a bad habit. He never on time to anything. Arrives ten minutes late everywhere. Larry always an excuse. "I missed the bus." "My alarm clock didn't ring." "My watch stopped." Uses each excuse at least twice a week. I know them all. Whenever Larry rushes in—ten minutes late, of course—and starts to say, "Sorry I'm late, but I . . .," I can finish the sentence for him. However, I recently discovered a new strategy. If the movie starts at 7:00, I tell Larry it starts at 6:45. Then he early! Larry's bad habit not a problem for me any longer.



SENTENCE STRUCTURE

There are four basic sentence structures in English: (1) simple, (2) compound, (3) complex, and (4) compound-complex. In this chapter, you will learn about simple sentences.

SIMPLE SENTENCES

A **simple sentence** is a sentence that has one subject-verb pair.

The subject (S) in a simple sentence may be a single subject (consisting of a word, noun phrase, or subject pronoun) or it may be **compound**. That is, it may consist of two or more subjects (nouns, noun phrases, or pronouns) joined by connecting words like *and* or *or*:

S S

My brother and I are completely different.

S S

Mary or Rita will meet you at the airport.

The verb (V) in a simple sentence may also be compound. It may consist of two or more verb forms joined by connecting words such as *and* or *or*. However, these are simple sentences because they have only one subject-verb pair.

V V

They laughed and cried at the same time.

V V

He walks or cycles to work.

Study the simple sentences in the left column and their patterns in the right column. There are many variations, but each sentence has only one S V pair.

| SIMPLE SENTENCES | PATTERNS |
|--|----------|
| S V | |
| 1. My younger sister speaks English well. | S V |
| S S V | |
| 2. My mother and father speak English well. | SS V |
| S S V V | |
| 3. My mother and father speak and write English well. | SS VV |
| S V V | |
| 4. My brother doesn't speak or write English well. | S VV |

Analyzing Your Writing for Verbs

Here are some simple rules to follow when you analyze your writing for verbs.

| RULES | EXAMPLES |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Label two- and three-word verb forms as a single verb.</p> | <p>My sister ^v <u>is studying</u> French this semester.</p> <p>My brother ^v <u>has been living</u> in Mexico since last year.</p> |
| <p>2. Label only main verb forms as verbs. Do not label infinitives (that is, verb forms which begin with <i>to</i>).</p> | <p>My grandmother ^v <u>wants</u> ^x to live in Florida.</p> <p>Florida ^v <u>is</u> ^x a nice place to live</p> |
| <p>3. Do not label verb forms that are used as adjectives or nouns.</p> | <p>A duck ^v <u>is swimming</u> ^x in the hotel swimming pool.</p> |

PRACTICE 8 Recognizing Patterns in Simple Sentences

- A Read the paragraph. Underline each subject once, and write S above it. Underline each verb twice, and write V above it.

My Grandfather

1 ^S My grandfather ^V is old in years but young in spirit. 2 Every day, ^S he ^V swims a mile and ^V works in his garden. 3 He and my grandmother have four children and ten grandchildren. 4 My grandfather loves parties and invites our entire family to his house for a big dinner on his birthday. 5 All 20 of us eat and tell stories half the night. 6 My grandfather never gets tired and is always the last to go to bed. 7 On his last birthday, my brothers and I gave him a present. 8 We put our money together and bought him a video game system. 9 Now he invites us to his house every weekend to play video games with him. 10 My grandfather never seems old to me.



B Write the pattern for each sentence in Part A.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| 1. <u> SV </u> | 6. _____ |
| 2. <u> SVV </u> | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

PRACTICE 9 Using Simple Sentence Patterns

A Write simple sentences about your family and friends. Use each of these patterns at least once: S V, SS V, S VV, and SS VV.

- My youngest brother Jonathan goes to the University of Washington and
works part time.
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

B Write the pattern for each sentence in Part A.

- SVV
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Connecting Words: *And* and *Or*

You often need to connect words or groups of words in a sentence. One way to do this is to use a connecting word. Connecting words are called **conjunctions**. There are many conjunctions in English. Two of the most common ones are *and* and *or*. They have different meanings.

| RULES | EXAMPLES |
|--|---|
| 1. <i>And</i> joins two or more similar things in affirmative sentences. | I like Chinese and Italian food. We have class on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. |
| 2. <i>Or</i> connects two or more similar things in negative sentences. | I don't like warm milk or cold coffee. We don't have class on Tuesdays or Thursdays. |
| 3. <i>Or</i> also connects two or more choices or alternatives. | I would like to go to London, Rome, or Paris on my next vacation. <i>(I cannot go to all three places. I will choose one.)</i> My father or my mother will meet me at the airport. <i>(This sentence means that only one person will come to the airport.)</i> COMPARE: My father and my mother will meet me at the airport. <i>(This sentence means that two people will come to the airport.)</i> |

PRACTICE 10

Using *And* and *Or*

Complete each sentence with *and* or *or*.

- I can speak _____ *and* _____ understand English.
- I can't speak Tagalog _____ Vietnamese.
- My mother is proud of my sister _____ me.
- Would you like to listen to music _____ watch a movie?
(You can do only one.)
- You can walk there _____ take the bus. *(You can do only one.)*
- My uncle, a talented artist, paints _____ makes sculptures.
- Does your English class meet on Monday, Wednesday, _____
Friday, _____ on Tuesday, Thursday, _____ Friday?
- Last year my stepmother graduated from college _____ started her own business.