

Name _____

Nouns Functioning as Subjects

Nouns and pronouns can function as the subject of the sentence. To decide if a word is the subject, ask *who* or *what* followed by the verb. The noun is called the simple subject. The subject usually precedes the verb, but not always.

Example: Mary runs five miles daily.
The tall, blonde runner is going to the Olympics.
A competition is always held in the spring.

Underline the noun that is the subject in each sentence.

1. Salvador went on a whale watching tour out of Half Moon Bay in California.
2. The weather was cold and windy.
3. The passengers on the boat waved good-bye.
4. The tour guide explained the migratory habits of grey whales.
5. The selected area for viewing was about one hour from shore.
6. The cold, rough winds made the trip rather uncomfortable.
7. Many people got seasick.
8. After no sightings for two hours, the captain decided to return to shore.
9. Most people were terribly disappointed.
10. The seasick people were not disappointed when they turned back toward the shore.
11. Suddenly, three whales were spotted together.
12. The immense mammals rose powerfully out of the water over and over.
13. The tourists were mesmerized by their encounter.
14. Even the most seasick woman managed to get a good look.
15. During the return to shore the marine biologist talked very seriously about endangered species such as these.

Nouns

Nouns are words used for naming people, places, things, and ideas.

EXAMPLES: **People**—Mother, person, child **Things**—tiger, bicycles, motocross, salad
Places—city, suburbs, India **Ideas**—love, freedom, pity

EXERCISE ONE *Circle all of the nouns in the sentences below.*

1. At one time in the past, people on the Great Plains lived in houses made of sod.
2. These houses were called soddies because the walls, roof, and floor were made of earth.
3. The entire house was usually one room that served as kitchen, parlor, and bedroom.
4. Viewed from a distance, the soddy resembled a boxy mound of dirt.
5. Instead of shingles, grass usually covered the tops of these buildings.
6. Families living in soddies had to do without electricity and plumbing.
7. Though the inside of the house was small and dark, the temperature was comfortable.
8. The thick, earthen walls kept out the worst cold in winter and the worst heat in summer.
9. Pests like fleas, mice, and snakes usually became uninvited residents of soddies.
10. Despite these pests, pioneers preferred soddies over houses made of wood or stone, because the main building material was free and plentiful.

When a noun names a general group, it is called a common noun. Words like **people**, **town**, **paper**, and **happiness** are examples of common nouns. A noun that names a specific person, place, thing, or idea is called a proper noun. Because they are specific names, proper nouns are always capitalized. Words like **Brian**, **Chicago**, the **Titanic**, and **English** are proper nouns.

EXERCISE TWO *Circle all common nouns below and draw three lines under letters that should be capitalized for proper nouns.*

The settlers of nebraska often found the winter harsh. Although soddies offered protection from snow and wind, the sub-freezing weather of january and february made life hard. A fireplace or wood stove was the only source of heat. When the flames expired, the soddy turned into an icebox. A glass of water, for example, left by a bed during the evening on friday was usually frozen on saturday. Bread or sides of meat were thawed on stoves before being sliced for breakfast. Some families, like the rankins or carters, adopted ideas from the indians to keep warm. Such families built a tent or teepee around a fireplace inside the soddy. The smaller space stayed fairly warm. This method, however, was used only during times of very harsh temperatures.

Compound nouns are nouns that consist of more than one word. In some compound nouns, the words are separate: **peanut butter**, **Independence Day**. In other compound nouns the words are connected by hyphens: **step-father**, **double-header**. In a third type of compound nouns, words are connected: **headlight**, **mailbox**. Because there are no rules telling which compound nouns should be separated, hyphenated, or connected, you should refer to a dictionary to find the exact form of an unknown compound.

EXERCISE THREE *Underline all compound nouns below. Then write C for common or P for proper over each noun, including the compound nouns you underlined.*

1. the old gas station on the main street of Wichita
2. steaming oatmeal nestled in peaches and topped with warm milk
3. the prairie dogs of the Great Plains, like their near relatives the groundhogs
4. while the rattlesnake rattled and the mule deer flared its nostrils
5. In the rainy month of April, all the dry washes flooded.
6. On seeing the condition of our lean-to after the rain, my father-in-law offered to help.
7. Clean the kerosene lamp with sand, then put a piece of red flannel in the bowl to color the kerosene.
8. The Platte was a broad river, but so shallow that a lot of mud was carried along in the water.
9. Quickly handing Sara the baking powder, Len caught the mixing bowl before it could fall.
10. Flapjacks for breakfast on Sundays are a part of my memories of childhood in Colorado.
11. This morning was so windy and cold that even the flames in the fireplace shivered.
12. Carefully mend that tear in the wagon cover before the tear enlarges, Lisa.
13. The sunrise flashed sparks last Thursday over the mountain range ahead.
14. Stacy fed the colt and brushed and braided the colt's mane, too.



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Nouns with Superheroes Worksheet

Part One: Identifying Nouns

Circle each noun. There is more than one in each sentence



1. The city of Metropolis needs a real superhero to fight crime.
2. The superheroes in Metropolis have some pretty silly superpowers.
3. John has the most amazing superpower.
4. With just a little caffeine, John can study all night!
5. Cowboy Boy lives in a quiet little town in New Mexico.
6. Captain Football can throw a football over Mount Everest with one hand!
7. Birdman can talk to birds but the birds have been getting bored with his conversation recently.
8. The Grasshopper can jump over cars, trees, and buildings.
9. The Flea is always itchy and never hesitates to bite his enemies.
10. All good superheroes fight for truth, justice, and the right to wear spandex.
11. Homework Girl can complete any task that her teacher assigns in a single class period.
12. Mister Invisible is awfully hard to find, unless there is snow on the ground.
13. Turbo Boy has super speed, lots of attitude, and minty fresh breath.
14. The Mule can carry ten times his own weight.
15. Mr. Morton has only one weakness: mortonium, a secret metal that drains intelligence from geniuses.

Part Two: Recognizing Noun Types

Determine whether each noun is singular or plural, common or proper, and concrete or abstract.

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 16. speed | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | Singular or Plural | Common or Proper | Concrete or Abstract |
| 17. Metropolis | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | Singular or Plural | Common or Proper | Concrete or Abstract |
| 18. children | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | Singular or Plural | Common or Proper | Concrete or Abstract |
| 19. weaknesses | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | Singular or Plural | Common or Proper | Concrete or Abstract |
| 20. John | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| | Singular or Plural | Common or Proper | Concrete or Abstract |

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Nouns

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Nour

Nouns as Simple Subjects and Noun Phrases as Complete Subjects

Nouns and pronouns can function as the subject of the sentence. To decide if a word is the subject, ask *who* or *what* followed by the verb. A noun without its modifiers is called the **simple subject**. A noun with its modifiers is called a noun phrase and becomes the **complete subject**. Noun phrases include adjectives, adverbs that intensify the adjectives, and prepositional phrases. They extend and complete the noun's meaning in various ways.

Example: Mary runs five miles daily. (simple subject)
The tall girl in the blue shorts is going to the Olympics. (complete subject)

Underline the simple subject in each sentence. Circle the complete subject.

1. The moonless, brisk night was perfect for Halloween.
2. The howling wind added to the effect.
3. Hooting owls could be heard in the treetops.
4. Wild-eyed black cats roamed through the streets.
5. Scary yard decorations were evident everywhere.
6. The excited children in their scary costumes ran from house to house.
7. A boy in a mummy costume had the largest bag for treats.
8. A vampire with glistening fangs walked beside him.
9. The cackling laughter of a tall witch made them scatter.
10. The triumphant witch watched the two boys run for the safety of a porch.
11. Two cute little skeletons knocked on Mr. Burke's door.
12. A ghost in a white sheet opened the door.
13. Homemade cookies in orange trick-or-treat bags were given to each child.
14. A prissy ballerina in a pink tutu walked by with her mother and a werewolf.
15. Laughing children ran from house to house with their bags of treats.

Subject-Verb Agreement I

Nouns and verbs are either singular or plural; that is, they have number. Number tells whether the noun and verb refer to one person, place, thing, or idea—or to more than one. In standard English sentences, the subject and verb must agree in number. When the simple subject names one or more, the verb must also indicate one or more.

EXAMPLES: My uncle builds bridges. (singular verb *builds* agrees with singular subject *uncle*)

My uncles build bridges. (plural verb *build* agrees with plural subject *uncles*)

NOTE: It is the subject, not the predicate nominative, that agrees with the verb. For example, in the sentence *The trouble with that city is its traffic jams*, the singular verb *is* agrees with the singular subject *trouble*. The verb does not agree with the plural predicate nominative *traffic jams*.

EXERCISE ONE Circle the one verb that agrees with its subject for each sentence below.

1. Karen Thomas (gazes, gaze) out the cabin window.
2. Her eyes (searches, search) the mountain road for Dad's old pickup truck.
3. A thin worry line (stretches, stretch) across her fourteen-year-old brow as she watches several animals run by.
4. The late afternoon shadows (seems, seem) especially dark and sinister on Grizzly Mountain today.
5. Suddenly, three timber wolves (dashes, dash) past the cabin.
6. An elk (follows, follow) close behind the wolves.
7. As she watches the road, Karen (puzzles, puzzle) over the odd sight of these animals so close together.
8. Then, quite unexpectedly, the cabin door (crashes, crash) open.

Sometimes a prepositional phrase comes between the simple subject and verb of a sentence. When this happens, watch out. The object of a preposition can never be the subject of a sentence. Do not be misled.

EXAMPLES: A steady **stream** of hot wind currents **fills** the cabin. (the subject is *stream*, not *currents*)

Her **worries** about Dad **increase** with each burning wave of air. (the subject is *worries*, not *Dad*)

Sometimes the subject is an indefinite pronoun followed by a prepositional phrase. These pronouns are words that do not refer to a definite person or thing.

EXAMPLES: **Each** of the blasts of hot air **tells** Karen a forest fire is near. (the subject, *Each*, is singular)

Several of these blasts of wind **force** her out of the cabin. (the subject, *Several*, is plural)

Lesson 12**Appositives**

An **appositive** is a noun that is placed next to, or in apposition to, another noun to identify it or add information to it.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt's wife, **Eleanor**, was a famous humanitarian.

An **appositive phrase** is a group of words that includes an appositive and other words that describe the appositive.

Roosevelt, **our thirty-second president**, was the only U.S. president to be elected to the presidency four times.

An appositive phrase that is not essential to the meaning of the sentence is set off from the rest of the sentence by commas. However, if the appositive is essential to the meaning of the sentence, commas are not used.

► **Exercise 1** Underline each appositive or appositive phrase, and circle the noun it identifies.

George Washington, commander of the Continental Army, led troops during the Revolutionary War.

1. Washington's picture is on a coin, the quarter.
2. John Adams succeeded the president. George Washington, as president of the United States.
3. Adams's wife, Abigail, was well-read and outspoken.
4. Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of a historic document, the Declaration of Independence.
5. Jefferson designed Monticello, his thirty-two room house.
6. Dolly Madison, wife of James Madison, rescued important government documents from the White House before fire could destroy them.
7. James Monroe was said to have nursed the wounds of the famous French soldier the Marquis de Lafayette.
8. Monroe was president when the United States acquired Florida, a populous territory.
9. John Quincy Adams, the son of the second president, served only one term.

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Nouns Functioning as Appositives

Read the two sentences. Underline the part in the second sentence which can be used to expand the first sentence. Rewrite the first sentence so that it has an appositive when expanded.

Example: Julie got the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy.
Julie is a great dancer.
Julie, a great dancer, got the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy.

1. The car was vandalized in the parking lot.
The car was a luxury convertible.

2. Carla designed the itinerary for our trip to Alaska.
Carla is a very experienced travel consultant.

3. Mary Shelley's novel is a great classic tale of horror.
Mary Shelley's novel is *Frankenstein*.

4. The word was misused in this sentence.
The word is *disinterested*.

5. Agoraphobia often affects depressed women.
Agoraphobia is the fear of being in open spaces.

Subject Complements

A subject complement is a noun, pronoun, or adjective that comes after a linking verb and identifies or describes the simple subject.

EXAMPLES: Karla was an **athlete**.
 The winners are **he** and **she**.
 They certainly look **tired**.

You see that subject complements can be nouns like **athlete**, pronouns like **he** and **she**, or adjectives like **tired**.

EXERCISE ONE *The sentences below have either subject complements or direct objects. Circle only the subject complements.*

- Almost everyone on the team seemed particularly edgy during the last day of practice.
1. Even the coach appeared somewhat withdrawn.
 2. Throughout the practice we missed not only the difficult goals but also the easy ones.
 3. Only Jennifer and Karla remained consistent, productive scorers for the team.
 4. The two of them, always steady and sure of themselves, were our primary scoring powers.
 5. Without both of them in the lineup our chances of a city championship were slim.
 6. Working together as feeder or scorer, Jennifer and Karla were scoring the majority of our points.
 7. However, the rest of us recognized our skills and contributions to the team.
 8. All of us felt important to the team and to the team's victories.

A predicate nominative is one type of **subject complement**. It is a noun or pronoun that follows a linking verb and identifies the subject of a sentence.

EXAMPLES: They were good **scorers**.
 I was a **nonscorer** for the team.
 Our team co-captains are **Jennifer and Karla**.

A predicate adjective is the other kind of **subject complement**. It is an adjective that follows a linking verb and describes the subject of the sentence.

EXAMPLES: Quite suddenly Karla seemed **hurt**.
 Gripping her ankle, she looked **pale**.
 The whole team felt **lost** and **helpless**.

EXERCISE TWO *Label the following sentences with **PN** above the predicate nominative or **PA** above the predicate adjective.*

- Everyone remained ^{PA} motionless for the longest time.
1. That injured player was both a friend and a top scorer for the team.

Complements: Direct and Indirect Objects

S V
Worms wiggle.
S V V V V
He must have been reading.
S V
A daisy grows.

A complement is a word that **completes** the meaning of a sentence. Each of the three sentences above has complete meaning without a complement. These are called S-V sentences. Sometimes, however, a sentence is based on a subject-verb-complement pattern (S-V-C). An S-V-C sentence would be incomplete without its complement.

EXAMPLES: S V C
They took us to town.
S V C
That coach helped Toby.
S V C
Worms are squiggly in my hand.

As you see, complements can be nouns, pronouns, or adjectives.

EXERCISE ONE Write *S* over the simple subject, *V* over each word of the simple verb, and *C* over any complement that appears in each of the following sentences.

- S V C
- The leading sport in many countries of the world is soccer.
 - 1. Soccer matches in some European and Latin American countries have drawn crowds of over a hundred thousand people.
 - 2. Soccer teams from ten Latin American countries compete yearly for the Copa Libertadores.
 - 3. Soccer is also an event in the Summer Olympic Games.
 - 4. Historians do not know the exact origin of this game.
 - 5. A game similar to soccer was being played in China around 400 B.C.
 - 6. Early Roman soldiers played a game like soccer-football both in Rome and in Britain.
 - 7. These contests were similar, at least in idea, to the soccer matches of today.
 - 8. The first British soccer match may have been held in Derby, England, in A.D. 217.
 - 9. By 1314, the game was very unpopular with King Edward II.
 - 10. The game was very noisy, with British subjects running and fighting over a large ball in the city.
 - 11. The King and others outlawed the game of football within the city limits.
 - 12. This law wasn't unreasonable.
 - 13. The soccer goals were usually at opposite ends of the town's main street!