

**SENTENCE ESSENTIALS - ENC 0002**  
**SUBJECTS - REVIEW**

A **SIMPLE SENTENCE** contains a SUBJECT and VERB and expresses a COMPLETE THOUGHT. Another term for a simple sentence is an **independent clause**.

- The **SUBJECT** of a sentence is the person(s) or thing(s) the sentence is about. If the verb is an action, the subject is the one doing the action. The subject can be a **NOUN** or a **PRONOUN**.

*The supervisor observed the workers' progress.* [*Supervisor* is doing the action]

noun subject

*They wanted to attend the ballet.* [*They* are doing the action]

pronoun subject

- The **SUBJECT PRONOUNS** are *I, you, he, she, it, we, they, who, whoever*  
[Remember - after a preposition, use the object forms of the pronouns: *me, him, her, us, them, whom, whom ever*]

*Harvey and **I** are going to the movies.* [*I* is part of the subject doing the action]

*Harvey bought a present **for me**.* [*me* is the object form used after a preposition]

- A **COMPOUND SUBJECT** occurs when there are two or more subjects of the same verb.

***John and Greg** both go to Miami-Dade.* [*John and Greg* are both subjects of the verb *go*]

***He and I** are good friends.* [*he and I* are both subjects so use the subject form of the pronoun]

***Tom, Fred, and I** meet every morning for breakfast.* [*Tom, Fred, and Harry* are all subjects of the verb *meet*.]

**STEPS TO IDENTIFY THE SUBJECT:**

1. Identify and eliminate all PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES since they will never contain a subject.  
(see handout of prepositions or list on page 42)

*Example: Each ~~of the students~~ must buy the book.* [*students* cannot be the subject since it is in a prep. phrase]

2. Ask yourself who or what is doing the action; this will be the subject.

*Each student must buy the book.* [*who must buy? student* is doing the action, so it is the subject]

*Each of the students must buy the book.* [*since students* is in a prep. phrase, *each* is the subject]

**WATCH OUT:** A possessive noun or pronoun is never a subject.

*Mark's aunt was visiting her sister.* [The *aunt*, not *Mark* is the subject doing the action.]

*My brother is taking flying lessons.* [*brother*, not *my*, is the subject]

**Practice:**

*Directions: In the following sentences, cross out the PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES (not all sentences contain prepositional phrases). Then circle the SUBJECTS.*

1. In front of the bus are several confused tourists.
2. My sister's son wants a new car for his birthday.
3. The fax machine in the office was not working.
4. In the middle of the day, they like to take a walk around the lake.
5. Everything is ready for the party.
6. The witness of the brutal crime described her version of the events.
7. Luis is thinking of going to the doctor for his yearly check-up.
8. Nobody in the group had read the book yet.
9. Every summer, Sam and Marie's parents travel to Minnesota to visit them.
8. In the yard, the dog and her puppies chewed happily on the boy's sneakers.
9. Mario's brother was drafted by a minor league baseball team.
10. Neither Franco nor Monica had heard the news.

*Directions: Circle the subjects and label them on the line as SIMPLE (S) or COMPOUND (C).*

9. \_\_\_\_\_ Last month my husband and I decided to move to another state.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ The movie and the book were not very much alike.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Jennifer was shocked to see the amount of debt on her credit card.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ The class of international students was learning about the local economy.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ One of my best friends is a computer programmer.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Neither the pizza nor the sodas have not arrived yet.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ The magazines in the waiting room are all old and torn.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ Luis ran into the room yelling at the top of his voice.

*Directions: Write the correct form of the given PRONOUN on the line.*

17. ( I, me ) Mom baked cookies for Peter and \_\_\_\_\_.
18. ( I, me ) After school, Mark and \_\_\_\_\_ are going to the movies.
19. ( he, him // she, her ) The principal called \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to his office.
20. ( He, Him // she, her ) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ went to the principal's office.
21. ( I, me ) The manager gave Sam and \_\_\_\_\_ complimentary tickets to the next movie.
22. ( they, them // I, me ) Without \_\_\_\_\_ to follow, \_\_\_\_\_ wasn't sure what to do.
23. ( I, me ) My brother and \_\_\_\_\_ have many common interests.
24. ( she, her ) John and \_\_\_\_\_ have always wanted to visit Alaska.