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Subject and Predicate



Warm-up



Match each subject with the most appropriate predicate.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. The man | a. blew down from the icy peaks. |
| 2. The clowns | b. happens here stays a secret. |
| 3. Something | c. made our blood curdle. |
| 4. Cold winds | d. stood under the banyan tree. |
| 5. The sight | e. made everyone laugh with their antics. |
| 6. What | f. is not quite right. |

The **sentence** is the most important grouping of words because it expresses a complete thought. Every sentence has a subject and a predicate.

Basic Structure of a Sentence

Every sentence has a subject, which is the person or thing that the sentence is about, and a predicate, which is what the sentence says about the subject. The predicate always has a finite verb in it. This finite verb is the most important word in the sentence.

The most important word of the subject is called the **headword** of the subject, which is always a noun.

(In the following examples, the **subject** is highlighted and the *predicate* is italicised. The *verb* is both italicised and in bold black, while the headword is underlined.)

1. A dirty dish lay on the floor.
2. The brakes of the car were not working well even after the servicing.

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3. The dog barked.

4. Something was worrying them yesterday.

Note that the predicate may consist of just the finite verb and nothing else (see the third example). Similarly, the headword may be the complete subject (see the fourth example).

Parts of the Predicate

Certain nouns or noun-like words/expressions (pronouns, noun infinitives, gerunds, noun phrases or noun clauses) in the predicate of a sentence are of extreme importance.

- ◆ A direct object of the verb is mostly a thing and answers the question introduced by 'what'
- ◆ An indirect object of the verb is mostly a person and answers the question introduced by 'whom'
- ◆ A noun or noun-like word/expression which follows a preposition is called an object of that preposition, or a prepositional object. For example,
 - The boy showed the little girl an old photograph which he had found in his grey trunk.

In this sentence, the direct object is **an old photograph**, the indirect object is **the little girl** and **in his grey trunk** is an adverbial phrase or a prepositional phrase.

Showed what? **an old photograph** [Direct object (thing)]

Showed whom? **the little girl** [Indirect object (person)]

- ◆ As we have seen, a sentence need not have any object in it at all. For example,
 - The dog barked.
- ◆ If it has a direct object, the finite verb acts transitively. In other cases, the verb acts intransitively.
- ◆ If a sentence has a direct object, then it may not have an indirect object. For example,
 - He bought a pen.But, if it has an indirect object, then it has to have a direct object. For example,
 - He bought me a **pen**.
- ◆ An indirect object can be converted into a prepositional object. For example,
 - He bought a pen **for me**.

These sentences have an indirect object. The indirect object is the recipient of the direct object.





A. Write DO above the direct objects and IO above the indirect objects in these sentences. Write NO for sentences where there is no object at all.

1. Mrs Lal bought a smart coat for her youngest daughter.
2. Sandeep gave me the book yesterday.
3. Johnson drove the car.
4. The rabbit jumped high in the air.
5. Nitin sang a song for his friend.
6. Give me that box at once!
7. The flowers that were given to Bonny by Sukhi have withered.
8. The shark swished its tail and swam away.



Compound Subject and Predicate

You have read that the subject in a sentence can be one word, two words or phrases.

Now, read these sentences.

- Gaurav **and** Sabina go to the same school.
- The book shelf **or** the book case has to go.
- **Both** the dog **and** the cat are sleeping out in the backyard.
- **Neither** the cushions **nor** the curtains match the couch.
- **Either** Kavita **or** Isha can work on this assignment.

In these sentences, the subjects are joined by conjunctions.

When there are two or more subjects in a sentence and they are joined by conjunctions like **and**, **or**, **both...and**, **either...or**, **neither...nor**, **as well as**, **along with** or **not only...but also**, the sentence is said to have a **compound subject**.

Now, read these sentences.

- Gaurav **not only** plays tennis in the evenings **but also** swims.
- The cat climbs the tree **and** sleeps on the branch.

In these sentences, the predicates are joined by conjunctions.

When there are two or more predicates in a sentence and they are joined by conjunctions like **and**, **or**, **both...and**, **either...or**, **neither...nor**, **as well as**, **along with** or **not only...but also**, the sentence is said to have a **compound predicate**.

Note

Sometimes, sentences can have both compound subjects and compound predicates. For example,

- Both Nina and Saurav not only attend art classes but also practise playing the piano every Friday.



B. Complete these sentences by adding either compound subjects or compound predicates.

3.

1. _____ are playing in the field.
2. _____ have gone home for lunch.
3. The seagulls on the beach _____.
4. _____ are both going to Bhutan for a holiday.
5. The Pathaks and the Singhs _____.
6. Would _____ like to _____?
7. _____ want to go on a cycling trip.
8. All the animals in the sanctuary _____.

4.

Types of Sentences According to Function

You have already learnt in earlier classes that sentences can be broadly classified into four categories according to their function. Here's a quick revision.

1. Assertive (or Declarative) Sentences

These are sentences which **state** something: a fact, opinion, or idea. The vast majority of sentences are of this type.

For example,

- I get up early.
- He doesn't work.

2. Interrogative Sentences

These are sentences which generally **ask** something.

For example,

- What is a sentence?
- How is it different from a clause?
- When are we having our next test?
- Did you say tomorrow?

Occasionally, interrogative sentences can express a request, an offer, or a threat. For example,

- Would you please help me?
- Shall I take your luggage?
- You are under arrest. Now, are you coming with me?



3. Imperative Sentences

These are sentences which **demand** something or express an **order** or **request**.

For example,

- Give me that book.
- Close the door.
- Please show me the way to the station.

Such sentences have the second person pronoun, namely, you, as the unstated but implied subject. They are also always in the simple present tense.

4. Exclamatory Sentences

These are sentences which **exclaim** or express a strong **wish** or a **command**.

For example,

- What lovely roses these are!
- May he live long!

C. Change these sentences as instructed. Remember not to change the meaning.

1. This is a beautiful place. (*Change to exclamatory*)
2. Radha failed in her attempt to convince me. (*Change to negative*)
3. Tarun is not happy with the change in syllabus. (*Change to affirmative*)
4. Who doesn't know her? (*Change to affirmative*)
5. They will come to your party. (*Change to interrogative*)
6. The children in the slum are pitiful. (*Change to exclamatory*)
7. I'm sure Anna will be able to make it to practice today.
(*Change to interrogative with question tag*)
8. You really must not create such a ruckus. (*Change to imperative*)
9. When Ratan's mother passed away, he was inconsolable.
(*Change to negative*)
10. Can't you tell them to go away? (*Change to affirmative*)
11. Harish would like you to pass the salt to him. (*Change to imperative*)
12. I think Salim knows how to operate this machine.
(*Change to interrogative with question tag*)
13. This is terribly irresponsible of you! (*Change to negative*)
14. Can Yami not go in the other car? (*Change to affirmative*)
15. I request you to give me the keys. (*Change to imperative*)



Warm-up

Fill in the blanks with suitable pronouns.

___ does
your projects
for ___?



___ like to
work on my
projects ___.



___ is that
person sitting
on the bench?



___ is the new
manager. I ___
asked him who
he is.



The words that you filled in are different kinds of **pronouns**.

You have already learnt some of these in earlier classes. Let's revise them and learn some more kinds of pronouns.

Kinds of Pronouns

Pronouns are of nine kinds. These are:

1. personal pronouns
2. demonstrative pronouns
3. possessive pronouns
4. indefinite pronouns
5. interrogative pronouns
6. reflexive pronouns
7. reciprocal pronouns
8. emphatic pronouns
9. relative pronouns

1. Personal Pronouns

◆ Form

Person	Subject		Object	
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
First person	I	We	me	us
Second person	You	You	you	you
Third person	He/She/It	They	him/her/it	them

◆ Uses of 'it'

'it' is used

- a) for a thing or an animal. For example,
 - I read the book. **It** is very interesting.
 - The cow is an animal. **It** gives us milk.
- b) for a small child. For example,
 - The baby is crying. Lift **it**.
- c) for people, in a few cases. For example,
 - 'Who is **it** on the line?'
 - '**It's** me, Suresh.'
 - 'Is **it** Suresh over there?' 'No, **it's** Mohan.'
- d) to express time, distance, weather, etc. For example,
 - **It's** 5 o'clock by my watch.
 - **It's** the fourth of July.
 - **It's** cold today.
 - How far is **it** to Lucknow?
 - **It's** 500 kilometres.
 - **It** takes five hours to reach Jaipur.
- e) to introduce sentences. For example,
 - **It's** I who helped you.
 - **It's** the trains that were late.
 - **It's** in the morning that she is coming.
 - **It's** difficult to cross the rivers.
 - **It's** a pity she fell ill before the examination.
- f) to represent something already mentioned. For example,
 - He is always on time and I like **it**.



◆ Use of **they, them, their**

The pronouns **they** and **them** can be used with **neither, either, no one, someone, anyone, everyone**. For example,

- **Who** has left **their** bag on the seat?
- **Neither** of **them** has completed their work.
- **Everyone** can be present, can't **they**?

2. Demonstrative pronouns

They help to point at something or someone. For example,

- **This** is my pen.
- **That** is a lost umbrella.
- **These** are your books.
- **Those** are students of this school.



3. Possessive pronouns and possessive adjectives

They help to show possession. For example,

- This pen is **mine**. (possessive pronoun)
- That is **your** pen. (possessive adjective)
- Those shoes are **hers**. (possessive pronoun)
- This is **our** house. (possessive adjective)
- That problem is **theirs**. (possessive pronoun)



4. Interrogative pronouns

The pronouns **who, what, which, whom** are used to ask questions. For example,

- **What** is your problem?
- **Who** can help you?
- **Which** is your schoolbag?
- **Whom** can you help?

5. Reflexive pronouns

When **myself, ourselves, yourself, yourselves** (plural), **himself, herself, itself** and **themselves** are used as objects of a verb and when the subject and the object are the same person or animal, the pronouns are called **reflexive pronouns**. For example,

- He hurt **himself**.
- You can save **yourself**.
- We should love **ourselves**.



- Why does she deceive **herself**?
- They hid **themselves** behind a bush.

Reflexive pronouns can also be used after prepositions. For example,

- We should depend on **ourselves**.
- I spoke to **myself**.
- Take care of **yourselves**.
- She hasn't left anything for **herself**.

6. Emphatic pronouns

When **myself**, **ourselves**, **yourself**, **yourselves**, **himself**, **herself**, **itself** are used to emphasise a noun or pronoun, these **self-pronouns** are called **emphasising pronouns**. For example,

- I **myself** can do it. OR → I can do it **myself**.
- He **himself** wrote the answer. OR → He wrote the answer **himself**.

Note the difference:

- Mala **herself** met Virat. (Mala, not anyone else, met Virat.)
- Mala met Virat **herself**. (Mala met Virat, not anyone else.)

7. Reciprocal pronouns

These pronouns are used to show that an action or a feeling is reciprocated. For example,

- They took care of **each other**.
- The survivors congratulated **one another**.

8. Indefinite pronouns

The indefinite pronouns are—

somebody	someone	something
anybody	anyone	anything
nobody	no one	nothing
everybody	everyone	everything

These pronouns do not refer to any specific person, thing or amount. For example,

- **Everybody** enjoyed the puppet show.
- There was **no one** in the building when the fire broke out.



9. Relative pronouns (Interrogative)

◆ Form

For persons

Subject	Object	Possessive
who	whom/who	whose
that	that	

For things

Subject	Object	Possessive
which	which	whose
that	that	

◆ Use

Relative pronouns are used to introduce a relative clause. Relative clauses give some information about the noun they qualify. They are of two kinds—**defining relative clauses** and **non-defining relative clauses**.

- a) **Defining relative clauses** add detail about a specific noun that is defined. For example,
- The boys **who were tired** slept.
- (Only some of the boys were tired and those tired boys slept. But, others who were not tired, kept awake.)

Note

In defining relative clauses, the pronouns **who**, **whom**, and **which** are often replaced by **that** in spoken English. In non-defining clauses, you cannot use **that** instead of **who**, **whom** or **which**.

- b) **Non-defining relative clauses** tell us more about someone or something, but the information in these clauses does not help us to define what or who we are talking about. For example,
- My friend Shashi, **who went to the same school as me**, has just written a best-selling novel.
 - My sister, **who stays in London**, has just written a best-selling novel.

A. Fill in the blanks with self-pronouns and tell whether they are reflexive or emphasising pronouns.

1. She will come to you _____.
2. I _____ heard the cry.
3. Let's enjoy _____.
4. Don't give _____ any trouble.
5. He is sitting all by _____.
6. You never think of _____.

7. They are spoiling _____.
8. I love _____ more than anyone else.
9. Sheela can't express _____ clearly.
10. He can do everything _____.

B. Read the following sentences and tell whether the relative clause used in each is a defining or a non-defining relative clause.

1. The story which I heard from her was published in all the dailies.
2. My television, which was in the far corner of the room, toppled over.
3. All the boys, who climbed to the very top of the hill, were rewarded.
4. The attacker, who threatened me with a gun, was arrested by the police.
5. The ball, which I threw, was caught by my dog.
6. The children who could read the story and write their name were admitted to the school.
7. The car, which rammed into a truck last night, was completely smashed.
8. The keys which are hanging on a string are yours.
9. The buyers, who were offered a cash rebate, bought everything in no time.
10. It was your brother that met my son.

C. Join the two sentences of each pair with the help of a relative pronoun.

1. The music was turned down. It was too loud.
2. The button came off. It was loose.
3. The boy was feeling sleepy. The teacher asked him to wash his face.
4. My teacher heard the news. She was shocked.
5. The boy is the best athlete. I hung his coat on the hook.
6. The people are always happy. They can handle problems.
7. I found the guard sleeping. I posted him outside the gate.
8. We should be grateful to our teachers. They taught us.
9. The finishing was done easily. It was done by experts.
10. The crowd was waiting for the singers to come on stage. It went crazy on seeing them.

