**Identifying Subjects and Verbs**

* **Your Diagnosis.** You are struggling to correctly identify the **subjects** and [verbs](https://pensacolastate.instructure.com/courses/1325752/modules/items/17035060) in your sentences.
* **Your Treatment Plan**. First of all, you need to be able to **explain what a subject and verb are**:
* A **subject** is the noun, pronoun, or set of words that performs the verb.

**Examples:**  
***The******woman***hurried*.* ***Shakespeare in Love*** won an Academy Award*.*  
*Woman* is the subject. *Shakespeare in Love* is the subject.

* A **verb** is a word or set of words that shows action (*runs, is going, has been painting*); feeling (*loves, envies*); or state of being (*am, are, is, have been, was, seem*). Visit [**this other resource**](https://pensacolastate.instructure.com/courses/1325752/modules/items/17035060) if you need more help with verbs.

The jet engine***passed***inspection*.*  
*Passed* is the **verb**. Who or what passed? The engine, so*engine* is the **subject**.

* **The Cure!**
* **Rule 1.** To find the subject and verb, **always find the verb first**. Then ask who or what performed the verb. **Example: The jet engine passed inspection.**

*Passed* is the **verb**. Who or what passed? The engine, so engine is the subject. (If you included the word jet as the subject, lightning will not strike you. But technically, jet is an adjective here and is part of what is known as the complete subject.)

* **Rule 2.** Sentences can have more than one **subject** and more than one **verb**. **Examples:** I like cake, and he likes ice cream. (Two subjects and two verbs)

**Be on the lookout for…**



**Prepositional phrases:** (If you need help identifying prepositional phrases, be sure to visit[**this resource page**](https://pensacolastate.instructure.com/courses/1325752/files/64363642?module_item_id=17076483))

* + EXAMPLE: A major force in today’s economy is the parent.
    - *Is the subject “force” or “economy”? I know “in” is a preposition…*
  + “In the economy” is a **prepositional phrase**. To find the subject, ask “What is a parent?” A

parent is a “major force.”

**When the subject is “understood you”:**

* + EXAMPLES: Get in the car! Come get your dinner. Go clean your room.
    - *Who needs to get in the car, get their dinner, and clean their room?*
  + In English, the subject of a command, order, or suggestion — **you**, the person being directed — is usually left out of the sentence and is said to be the **understood** subject or understood “you”.

**Try it out! Complete the practice exercises on the OTHER SIDE of this page.** 🡪

**Directions:** Now, try to find the subjects and verbs. In the following sentences, **underline the subject once, then circle the verb.** Cross through prepositional phrases first.

1. The candidate for office began a campaign in the fall.
2. After the end of the play, we will discuss its deeper meaning.
3. Give the money to the man at the door.
4. The top seller and the manager received an award at the banquet.
5. Have you seen that new movie?