

TEN-MINUTE GRAMMAR

SUBJECTS AND PREDICATES

OBJECTIVES:

1. Students should understand that...
 - a. A subject is who or what the sentence is about (the thing or person doing the action)
 - b. A predicate is what the subject does
 - c. A group of words that is missing either a subject or a predicate CANNOT be a sentence
2. Students should be able to...
 - a. Identify the complete subject and predicate of a sentence
 - b. Write sentences that contain a subject and a predicate

LITERATURE:

This unit contains example selections from the novel *Incarceron* by Catherine Fisher.

Identify the subject in each of the following sentences (who or what the sentence is about):

A sneaky rat named Scratch was pilfering food from the pantry.

1. Suddenly, the rat heard a low growl and a hiss.
2. Scratch bolted as fast as he could.
3. Captain Meow, the black tomcat, raced at Scratch's heels.
4. Just in time, the brown rat scurried into his hole.

Identify the predicate in each of the following sentences (what the subject did):

Captain Meow waited patiently.

5. He sat outside the mouse hole all day long.
6. Finally, the old tomcat decided to take a nap.
7. Snoring loudly, the sleepy hunter forgot about his prey.

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **FOUR-LETTER WORDS:** Take the four-letter word below and change one letter to make a new four-letter word (keep it clean!) Then take *that* word and change one letter to make a new word. Then take *that* word and... You get the picture.

DUMB

Identify the subject in each of the following sentences from Incarceron by Catherine Fisher:

1. Necklaces and amulets hung from the posts.
2. A small whine emerged from the device.

Identify the predicate in each of the following sentences from Incarceron:

3. Jared had crouched and was picking up the sharp, curved fragments of glass.
4. Huge and malevolent, the bird stared down at her.

Add your own subject to the following sentences from Incarceron:

5. _____ was black and looked like ebony.
6. _____ hadn't really been listening.

Add your own predicate to the following sentences from Incarceron:

7. Sleek silver devices _____ .
8. The long table _____ .

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **CATALOGUE CREATOR:** The prefix “**tele-**” means “from a distance” and sounds like “tella.” How many words can you list that contain this prefix?

In your own words...

1. What is a subject and how can you identify one?
2. What is a predicate and how can you identify one?
3. If a group of words doesn't have a subject AND a predicate, why is it NOT a full sentence?

General Grammar Review:

4. Which of the following homophones is usually a verb: Affect or Effect?
5. Write a sentence in which the word "president" must be capitalized.
6. What are the two verb phrases in the following sentence?
 - a. The apes had become more intelligent and were taking over the world.

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **ANAGRAM:** Rearrange the letters in the nonsense phrase below to create new words that actually make sense.

MACARONI DELI

(Hint: talent competition)

Read the following excerpt from Incarceron by Catherine Fisher and then answer the following questions:

(a) Inside, he latched the flimsy door and sat on the bed. (b) The room was cold and smelled of unwashed clothes, but it was quiet. (c) Slowly, he let himself lie back. (d) He breathed in and inhaled terror.

1. What is the predicate of sentence (a)? (Hint: it's a compound predicate, so the subject is doing two things, which are both part of the predicate).
2. What are the subjects of sentence (b)? (Hint: the sentence has two subjects because it's a compound sentence—two independent clauses.)
3. Would the word “Slowly” in sentence (c) be part of the subject or the predicate?
4. In sentence (d), is “breathed in” part of the subject or predicate?

Using the proper proofreading marks, correct the six errors in this excerpt:

The swan was moving. it seemed to glide, peacefully at first; than it reared up, flapping it's great wings and she saw an arrow come slowly out of the out of the trees and pierce its breast

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **DESCRAMBLER:** Try to sort out the five scrambled words below:
NEVI DFEIR NYKUHC OLYOGOZ NGAEBAB

REVIEW FOR TODAY'S QUIZ:

1. What is the subject of a sentence?
2. What is the predicate of a sentence?
3. Identify the subject and predicate in the following sentence:
 - a. Four purple penguins and green iguanas met at the dance club and boogied the night away.
4. Write several of your own example sentences and identify the subject and predicate.

Identify the subject in each of the following sentences from Incarceron by Catherine Fisher:

1. Finn's oathbrother was transformed.
2. The shouts of the Comitatus died abruptly.

Identify the predicate in each of the following sentences from Incarceron:

3. Keiro flung his head back and screamed with triumph.
4. A warm breeze drifted down the shaft.

Add your own subject to the following sentences from Incarceron:

5. _____ convulsed with agony.
6. _____ took a deep ragged breath.

Add your own predicate to the following sentences from Incarceron:

7. A blizzard of metal slivers _____ .
8. The fire in the hearth _____ .

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **VOWEL COMBINATOR:** The vowel combination “**oa**” almost always sounds like the hard “**O**” in “go.” List as many words as you can that contain this vowel combo.

Read the following excerpt from Incarceron by Catherine Fisher and then answer the following questions:

(a) Without waiting for his answer, she turned and swept back into the Den. (b) Slowly, Finn rubbed a hand around the back of his neck, feeling the damp of sweat. (c) He realized his body was a knot of tension; he made himself breathe out. (d) Then he froze.

1. Who or what is the subject of sentence (a)?
2. Is “the damp of sweat” the subject of sentence (b)?
3. How many subjects and predicates does sentence (c) have?
4. Is the word “Then” in sentence (d) part of the subject or the predicate?

Using the proper proofreading marks, correct the six errors in this excerpt:

For a moment he, couldn't speak. Before he could draw a brethe, she says, “You must swear my safety. But he said “they have to pay the ransom.”

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **FIXER-ROOTER:** How many words can you think of that have the same prefix, suffix, or root as the multisyllabic word below?

EXTEMPORANEOUS

(done or made without much or any preparation)

Read the following excerpt from Incarceron by Catherine Fisher and then answer the following questions:

(a) “The honor is ours,” she said. (b) “Perhaps you’d like to come into the parlor. (c) We have cider and newly baked cakes as refreshment after your journey.” (d) Well, she hoped they did. (e) Turning, she saw that three of the servants had gone and the gaps in the line had closed swiftly behind them.

1. Is the word “honor” in sentence (a) part of the subject or the predicate?
2. In sentence (b), is the word “parlor” a verb, noun, pronoun, or adverb?
3. Is “cider and newly baked cakes” the subject of sentence (c)?
4. In sentence (a), which word is a linking verb and which word is an action verb?
5. Sentence (e) is a compound-complex sentence and has THREE subjects; what are they?
6. In sentence (d), which two words are pronouns?
7. In sentence (d), is “hoped” part of the subject or the predicate?
8. List three nouns from sentence (e).

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **EIGHT BALL:** Create as many words as you can using three or more of the letters below (at least one eight-letter word is possible):

D A D O R I E N

**DAY
FOUR**

SUBJECT AND PREDICATE

Name:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

The swan was moving. it seemed to glide,
peacefully at first; than it reared up, flapping
it's great wings and she saw an arrow come
slowly out of the out of the trees and pierce
its breast

**DAY
FOUR**

SUBJECT AND PREDICATE

Name:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

The swan was moving. it seemed to glide,
peacefully at first; than it reared up, flapping
it's great wings and she saw an arrow come
slowly out of the out of the trees and pierce
its breast

**DAY
FOUR**

SUBJECT AND PREDICATE

Name:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

The swan was moving. it seemed to glide,
peacefully at first; than it reared up, flapping
it's great wings and she saw an arrow come
slowly out of the out of the trees and pierce
its breast

**DAY
FOUR**

SUBJECT AND PREDICATE

Name:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

The swan was moving. it seemed to glide,
peacefully at first; than it reared up, flapping
it's great wings and she saw an arrow come
slowly out of the out of the trees and pierce
its breast

**DAY
SIX**

SUBJECT AND PREDICATE

Name:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

For a moment he, couldn't speak. Before he could draw a brethe, she says, "You must swear my safety. But he said "they have to pay the ransom."

**DAY
SIX**

SUBJECT AND PREDICATE

Name:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

For a moment he, couldn't speak. Before he could draw a brethe, she says, "You must swear my safety. But he said "they have to pay the ransom."

**DAY
SIX**

SUBJECT AND PREDICATE

Name:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

For a moment he, couldn't speak. Before he could draw a brethe, she says, "You must swear my safety. But he said "they have to pay the ransom."

**DAY
SIX**

SUBJECT AND PREDICATE

Name:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

For a moment he, couldn't speak. Before he could draw a brethe, she says, "You must swear my safety. But he said "they have to pay the ransom."

NAME:

PERIOD:

The **SUBJECT** of a sentence is who or what the sentence is about—the person or thing doing the action of the sentence. The **PREDICATE** is the action of the sentence—what the subject does or is.

*In the following sentences, identify the underlined portion as the **SUBJECT** or **PREDICATE**:*

1. _____ Abraham Lincoln served as the 16th President of the United States.
2. _____ In the 1860 presidential election, Lincoln defeated Democrat Stephen Douglas, John Breckinridge of the Southern Democrats, and Jon Bell of the Constitutional Union Party.
3. _____ Before becoming president, Abe worked as a lawyer and served in several political positions.
4. _____ Lincoln lost eight elections during his political career.
5. _____ President Lincoln presided over the Civil War and the end of slavery.
6. _____ Many scholars rank Lincoln as the greatest president in U.S. history.

In order to have a full sentence, you must have a SUBJECT and a PREDICATE.

Decide if each of the following groups of words is a full sentence or not (answer YES or NO.)

7. _____ After re-entering politics in 1854, Abraham Lincoln.
8. _____ He was elected to the Illinois Legislature but turned down the position, hoping instead to become a senator.
9. _____ Was not chosen by the Illinois legislature to be a U.S. senator in 1855.
10. _____ Later nominated to be the Republican Senator from Illinois, opposing Democrat Stephen A. Douglas.
11. _____ Lincoln spoke against the Dred Scott Decision in 1857.
12. _____ He delivered an important speech on slavery in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1860.

Add a *SUBJECT* or a *PREDICATE* to complete the following sentences:

13. The President of the United States _____.
14. _____ was placed in command of the Union Army.
15. The Gettysburg Address _____.
16. _____ ended slavery in the United States.

Some sentences might have more than one person or thing doing the action—that would be a **COMPOUND SUBJECT. A sentence might also have a subject doing more than one action—then you have a **COMPOUND PREDICATE**.**

Add a *COMPOUND SUBJECT* or a *COMPOUND PREDICATE* to complete the next sentences (the sentences do not necessarily need to be true):

17. _____ and _____ marked a turning point in the Civil War.
18. After the Civil War, Lincoln _____ and _____.
19. _____ and _____ participated in several famous debates.
20. General Ulysses S. Grant _____ and _____.

NAME:

PERIOD:

The **SUBJECT** of a sentence is who or what the sentence is about—the person or thing doing the action of the sentence. The **PREDICATE** is the action of the sentence—what the subject does or is.

*For sentences 1 – 4, decide if the underlined portion is part of the **SUBJECT** or **PREDICATE**:*

1. _____ During the Civil War, President Lincoln supervised the selection of top generals.
2. _____ Lincoln's Gettysburg Address became one of the most quoted speeches in American history.
3. _____ Six days after the surrender of Confederate general Robert E. Lee, Lincoln died.
4. _____ His death marked the first assassination of a U.S. president.

In most **SIMPLE** sentences, the **SUBJECT** makes up the beginning of the sentence and the **PREDICATE** comes afterwards.

*For sentences 5 – 8, underline the **SUBJECT** once and underline the **PREDICATE** twice:*

5. Abraham Lincoln was born in a one-room log cabin on the 12th of February, 1809.
6. His younger brother, Thomas, was born in 1812 but died in infancy.
7. Young Abraham went to school in a log schoolhouse.
8. Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Abraham's mother, died of "milk sickness" before Lincoln's 10th birthday.
9. Abraham shot a wild turkey at age 7 but felt bad about it and never hunted again.

In other sentences, however, the SUBJECT and PREDICATE are harder to recognize because part of the predicate comes before the subject (often an adverb phrase that tells when or how the action happened.)

For sentences 9 – 12, underline the SUBJECT:

10. After his father's marriage to Sarah Bush Johnston, young Abraham developed a good relationship with his stepmother, Sarah.
11. Often borrowing books from others, Lincoln loved to read and learn.
12. As a teenager, he was called "Abe."
13. At age 22, Abe studied Shakespeare and participated in a local debate club.

In COMPOUND and COMPLEX sentences, there are actually two SUBJECTS and two PREDICATES (because compound and complex sentences have two clauses in them.) The conjunction that links the two clauses together is marked in bold, and it isn't actually part of subject or the predicate.

For sentences 19 – 22, underline the SUBJECTS once and the PREDICATES twice:

14. Abraham gave his first political speech in 1830; he spoke in favor of improving navigation on the Sangamon River near his home.
15. Lincoln was elected captain of a rifle company during the Black Hawk War, **but** he didn't end up fighting any battles.
16. In 1832, Lincoln ran as a candidate for the Illinois General Assembly, **but** he lost the election.
17. Lincoln was left in debt **when** the village store he owned in New Salem failed.
18. **Even though** he lost his first election, Lincoln ran for the General Assembly again in 1834.
19. Abraham became a leader of the Whig Party **after** he was re-elected in 1836.
20. His girlfriend, Mary Owens, rejected him **when** Abe proposed to her in 1837.

QUIZ

SUBJECT AND PREDICATE

NAME: _____

PERIOD: _____

Match the following terms with the correct definitions (each term has two correct answers):

1. Subject _____
 2. Predicate _____
- A.** The action of the sentence (what the subject does or is)
B. Must contain a noun or a pronoun
C. Who or what the sentence is about (the person or thing doing the action)
D. Must contain a verb

Which answer correctly identifies the **SUBJECT** of each sentence?

3. Abraham Lincoln became the 16th President of the United States in 1861.
A. 1861
B. President of the United States
C. Abraham Lincoln
4. Growing up on the western frontier, he and his family were not wealthy.
A. he and his family
B. the western frontier
C. not wealthy

QUIZ

SUBJECT AND PREDICATE

NAME: _____

PERIOD: _____

Match the following terms with the correct definitions (each term has two correct answers):

1. Subject _____
 2. Predicate _____
- A.** The action of the sentence (what the subject does or is)
B. Must contain a noun or a pronoun
C. Who or what the sentence is about (the person or thing doing the action)
D. Must contain a verb

Which answer correctly identifies the **SUBJECT** of each sentence?

3. Abraham Lincoln became the 16th President of the United States in 1861.
A. 1861
B. President of the United States
C. Abraham Lincoln
4. Growing up on the western frontier, he and his family were not wealthy.
A. he and his family
B. the western frontier
C. not wealthy

Which answer correctly identifies the **PREDICATE** of each sentence?

5. Mary Todd Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's wife, came from a slave-owning family in Kentucky.
- A. Abraham Lincoln's wife
 - B. came from a slave-owning family in Kentucky
 - C. Mary Todd Lincoln
6. The Republican president from Illinois took charge of both the political and military aspects of the Civil War.
- A. took charge of both the political and military aspects of the Civil War
 - B. political and military aspects of the Civil War
 - C. The Republican president from Illinois

Underline the SUBJECT of each sentence:

7. The 1858 campaign featured seven debates between Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas.
8. Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1862.

Underline the PREDICATE of each sentence:

9. After the war, Lincoln tried to reunite the divided union.
10. John Wilkes Booth assassinated the president in 1864.

Add a SUBJECT to this sentence:

11. _____ worked diligently.

Add a PREDICATE to this sentence:

12. The Civil War _____.

Which answer correctly identifies the **PREDICATE** of each sentence?

5. Mary Todd Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's wife, came from a slave-owning family in Kentucky.
- A. Abraham Lincoln's wife
 - B. came from a slave-owning family in Kentucky
 - C. Mary Todd Lincoln
6. The Republican president from Illinois took charge of both the political and military aspects of the Civil War.
- A. took charge of both the political and military aspects of the Civil War
 - B. political and military aspects of the Civil War
 - C. The Republican president from Illinois

Underline the SUBJECT of each sentence:

7. The 1858 campaign featured seven debates between Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas.
8. Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1862.

Underline the PREDICATE of each sentence:

9. After the war, Lincoln tried to reunite the divided union.
10. John Wilkes Booth assassinated the president in 1864.

Add a SUBJECT to this sentence:

11. _____ worked diligently.

Add a PREDICATE to this sentence:

12. The Civil War _____.

NAME:

PERIOD:

Match the following terms with the correct definitions:

1. Subject _____
2. Predicate _____
 - A. The action of the sentence (what the subject does or is)
Must contain a verb
 - B. Who or what the sentence is about (the person or thing doing the action)
Must contain a noun or a pronoun

Which answer correctly identifies the SUBJECT of each sentence?

3. Abraham Lincoln became the 16th President of the United States in 1861.
 - A. Abraham Lincoln
 - B. President of the United States
4. Growing up on the western frontier, he and his family were not wealthy.
 - A. he and his family
 - B. the western frontier

Which answer correctly identifies the PREDICATE of each sentence?

5. Mary Todd Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's wife, came from a slave-owning family in Kentucky.
 - A. Abraham Lincoln's wife
 - B. came from a slave-owning family in Kentucky

6. The Republican president from Illinois took charge of both the political and military aspects of the Civil War.
- A. took charge of both the political and military aspects of the Civil War
 - B. The Republican president from Illinois

Underline the SUBJECT of each sentence:

7. The 1858 campaign featured seven debates between Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas.
8. Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1862.

Underline the PREDICATE of each sentence:

9. Lincoln tried to reunite the divided country after the war.
10. John Wilkes Booth assassinated the president.

Add a SUBJECT to this sentence:

11. _____ worked very hard.

Add a PREDICATE to this sentence:

12. The Civil War _____.