

**Part 1 – Subjects**

**Term 1:** Every sentence must have a subject. The subject is the part of a sentence about which something is said. The subject is always either (1) a noun OR (2) a word, phrase, or clause that functions as a noun.

*In each sentence, which word or group of words is the subject? Underline it and label it “S.”*

- A. S Seagulls V eat garbage. (Hint: The subject is a *noun*.)
- B. S They V search for food at CHS during lunchtime. (Hint: The subject is a *pronoun*.)
- C. S Attacking students at lunch is a favorite activity for seagulls. (Hint: The subject is a *gerund phrase*.)

**Term 2:** The **simple subject** of a sentence is **the key word** of the subject—without its modifiers. When we talk about the subject of a sentence, generally we’ll be talking about the simple subject, which is the main word of the subject.

*In each sentence below, which word is the simple subject? Underline it and label it “S.”*

- D. S Many people V hate seagulls.
- E. S Students at CHS often V leave their garbage on campus.

**Term 3:** A **compound subject** is made of two or more simple subjects, usually joined by either “and” or “or”.

*Which two words comprise the compound subject? Underline & label each compound subject.*

- F. Enthusiastic S freshmen and know-it-all S sophomores V interact at CHS.
- G. S Mr. Robel and his English S gangstas V live the thug life 24/7.
- H. Either S Robe-Dawg or Mr. S Schmidt V will be rapping at my birthday party!

**Part 2 – Predicates and Verbs**

**Term 4:** Besides its subject, every sentence also must possess a **predicate**, which is simply the part of the sentence that either shows action or says something about the subject.

Notice the subject and predicate in each sentence below:

- I. S Mr. Robel V often brags about winning the “most humble” award.  
 (“Mr. Robel” is the subject, and the entire predicate includes the verb “brags” and all its modifiers.)
- J. S The aggressive porcupine V was looking at me with evil plans in his eyes.  
 (“The aggressive porcupine” is the complete subject, and the entire predicate includes the verb “was looking” and the three prepositional phrases that follow it.)

Term 5: A simple predicate is the sentence's verb without any modifiers.

Whenever we talk about the predicate, we'll be talking about the simple predicate or the verb.

In each sentence below, the simple subject has been identified already. Which word in each sentence is the verb (or the simple predicate)? Underline the verb twice and label it with the letter "V."

K. Mr. Robel sang in rock bands both during college and after college.

L. Now he teaches literature and fights the war against bad grammar.  
(Hint: This sentence has a two-word compound verb.)

M. Robe-Dawg often raps about his rough childhood on the suburban streets of Illinois.

### Part 3 – Exercise!

Each sentence below has a subject and a verb. Identify the simple subject and the verb in each sentence.

- 1) Underline the simple subject once and label it with an "S."
- 2) Underline the verb twice and label it with a "V."

Example: My uncle rides a skateboard to work.

1. I hate water.

2. Pat hid the pretzels in the desk drawer.

3. An evil elephant in a cage controls my thoughts.

4. Three-hundred sophomores at CHS sang punk-country songs and wore cowboy hats.

5. Your pet rhinoceros soiled my expensive Persian rug!

6. Vanessa donated lots of food to the homeless shelter.

7. Your coffee spilled all over my notebook.

8. The cat attacked the dog.

9. Jennie has been waiting for over three hours.

10. The angry students and their parents stormed into Mr. Robel's classroom.

11. My friends and I packed up our books, left the classroom, and walked to the beach.

12. Studying grammar with Robe-Dawg is amazingly fun!

compound subject

verb phrase (main verb + helping verbs)

gerund

linking/being verb

compound verb

## Part 4 – Phrases & Clauses

**Term 6:** A **phrase** is a group of words that functions as a single part of speech and that does not have a subject-verb combination.

Ex. in the beginning behind the buffalo will be herding guinea pigs to explode

**Term 7:** A **clause** is a group of related words that has a subject-verb combination (i.e., that has both a subject and a predicate).

Ex. until <sup>S</sup> I <sup>V</sup> eat the taco <sup>S</sup> Mary <sup>V</sup> kicked me. because porcupines get angry I don't exist.

### More about PHRASES

A **phrase** is a group of words that functions as a single part of speech and that does not have a subject-verb combination. There are many types of phrases; six common types are listed below.

Type of Phrase	Examples
<b>verb phrase</b> (a main verb and its helping verbs)	Snow <i>has been falling</i> all day. My friend <i>is studying</i> his Spanish.
<b>prepositional phrase</b> (a preposition plus its object and any modifiers)	I wake up at six o'clock <i>in the morning</i> every day. The bag <i>of feathers</i> was very difficult to carry.
<b>infinitive phrase</b> (the infinitive form of a verb plus its object or complement and any modifiers)	I love <i>to make delicious fish smoothies</i> . <i>To cheat on a grammar test</i> is the lowest form of evil.
<b>gerund phrase</b> (the -ing form of a verb that functions as a noun, plus its object or complement and any modifiers)	<i>Running on mountain trails</i> is fun. I stopped <i>listening to his stupid insults</i> years ago.
<b>noun phrase</b> (a noun and its modifiers)	The doctor examined <i>my yellow, oozing sore</i> . <i>Reality T.V. shows</i> are better than real life.
<b>participial phrase</b> (a past or present participle plus its object or complement and any modifiers)	<i>Training for the marathon</i> , she ran five miles each day. <i>Broken in pieces</i> , the dinner plate was useless.

### Part 5 – More Exercises!

A. Identify each group of words below by writing either “*phrase*” or “*clause*” in the blank.

- C 1. Because the <sup>S</sup> horses <sup>V</sup> always fight for their lunch.      P 2. Until the end of time.
- C 3. My <sup>S</sup> nephew <sup>V</sup> sends me a letter every day.      P 4. Running from the bad guys.
- C 5. <sup>S</sup> Stop that!      P 6. A heinous deed and a terrible salad.      C 7. <sup>V</sup> Go away, please.
- C 8. <sup>S</sup> Robe Dawg always <sup>V</sup> keeps it real.      P 9. Half of the enchilada.      P 10. Was sleeping.

B. Below are examples of clauses. Identify the subject and verb in each clause.

1. Underline the simple subject once and label it with an "S."
2. Underline the verb twice and label it with a "V."

Example: The swollen <sup>S</sup>river <sup>V</sup>overflowed its banks.

1. I <sup>S</sup>fear <sup>V</sup>the burrito.

2. The apocalypse <sup>S</sup>began <sup>V</sup>this morning.

3. Usually the ducks <sup>S</sup>attack <sup>V</sup>at dawn.

4. Studying <sup>S</sup>for tests boosts <sup>V</sup>my grades.

(Hint: Look for a subject that is a gerund phrase.)

5. Your friend <sup>S</sup>says <sup>V</sup>mean things and uses <sup>V</sup>bad grammar. I <sup>S</sup>am reporting <sup>V</sup>him to the Grammar Army!

6. Huge waves <sup>S</sup>break <sup>V</sup>at Carmel Beach, bro.

7. Mr. Robel's favorite waves <sup>S</sup>are created <sup>V</sup>by Antarctic storms over seven thousand miles away.

8. Discovering <sup>S</sup>the perfect quesadilla is <sup>V</sup>my life goal.

(Hint: Look for a subject that is a gerund phrase.)

9. My friends <sup>S</sup>travel <sup>V</sup>a lot and post <sup>V</sup>all their photos on the internet.

(Hint: Look for a compound verb in this sentence.)

10. Tourists <sup>S</sup>block <sup>V</sup>traffic in Big Sur and create <sup>V</sup>safety hazards on Highway 1.