

MODULE 2: THE SENTENCE

FINDING THE SUBJECT OF A SENTENCE

2f To find the subject of a sentence, ask *Who?* or *What?* before the verb.

EXAMPLES Blocking my view of the harbor was a building. [*What* was blocking my view? *A building* was.]
In her office, Ms. Menino graded papers. [*Who* graded papers? *Ms. Menino* graded.]

(1) The subject of a sentence expressing a command or a request is always understood to be *you*, although *you* may not appear in the sentence.

EXAMPLES Watch that movie to learn more about oceans. [*Who* is being told to watch? *You* are being told to watch.]
Please listen to my speech, Ann. [*Who* is being asked to listen? *You* listen.]

(2) The subject of a sentence is never in a prepositional phrase.

EXAMPLES A **group** of students gathered around the bulletin board. [*Who* gathered? *A group* gathered. *Students* is the object of the preposition *of*.]
One of the restaurants on that street has closed down. [*What* has closed down? *One* has closed down. *Restaurants* is the object of the preposition *of*. *Street* is the object of the preposition *on*.]

(3) The subject of a sentence expressing a question usually follows the verb or a part of the verb phrase.

EXAMPLES Is **Rudy** moving next week? [*Who* is moving next week? *Rudy* is.]
Will the **festival** end on Sunday? [*What* will end on Sunday? *The festival* will end.]

EXERCISE 5 Finding Subjects and Verbs

In each of the following sentences, underline the subject once and the verb twice. Include all parts of a compound subject or a compound verb and all words in a verb phrase. In sentences that give orders or make requests, underline only the verb.

EX. 1. That night, the website and the television aired the president's address in its entirety.

1. Throughout her lifetime, the philanthropist collected and donated works of art.
2. Swooping over the lake were seagulls and ducks.

3. A herd of elephants bathed and played in the muddy river.
4. Turn left, and follow the signs at the next intersection.
5. The printmaker and his assistant experimented with different inks.
6. After the exam, Marla, Theresa, and Jamie met in the hallway and walked home together.
7. Lush ferns and May apples carpeted the floor of the pine grove.
8. After her evening jog, Janet steamed clams and made a salad.
9. Gregory and Margaret registered for their first judo class.
10. Sunflower seeds and millet are healthy bread ingredients.
11. After his illness, the musician practiced and started performing again.
12. Each night, the cat paced the hallways and looked for mice.
13. The disc jockey always opened and closed her show with the same song.
14. Mr. Martínez and Ms. Chung have earned good citizenship awards and were honored by the mayor.
15. The diner and the newspaper stand on the corner have closed down.
16. The crumpled paper covered the surface of the drafting table.
17. Whales and icebergs are common sights off the coast of Alaska.
18. Hiding behind the tree were Alice and Anton.
19. City hall has been remodeled and opens tomorrow.
20. In her backyard, Felicia stood and watched the lunar eclipse.
21. The student's excellent academic record and community service earned her a scholarship.
22. Each fall, the northern peninsula of Wisconsin shimmers with changing leaves and hosts thousands of visitors.
23. A group of citizens attended the meeting and voiced their opinions.
24. Peonies in pink, magenta, and crimson grow in that garden.
25. In Mr. Rasko's basement, birdhouses and feeders were being built and painted.