

THE WHOLE THING
LEARNING ABOUT COMPLETE SUBJECTS

Every *sentence* must have a **subject** and a **predicate**. **Subjects** answer the question – who or what is the sentence about? **Subjects** come from two parts of speech – **nouns** or **pronouns**. **Subjects** can be either **simple** or **complete**.

A simple subject is the main noun or pronoun that names the subject. It is the most important word in the complete subject.

Simple subjects can be one word or more than one word. If a subject is a *proper noun* – like *Mark Twain* – it is still considered a **simple subject**. Any proper noun that is a name - *Six Flags over Texas* - or a book title would be considered a simple subject too.

Grand Canyon Tours offers mule rides to the bottom of the canyon.
Simple subject – *Grand Canyon Tours*

The complete subject is the simple subject and all the words that go with it. All the adjectives or articles that modify or describe the simple subject become part of the **complete subject**.

The mule with the blaze of white on his forehead walked slowly.
Simple subject – *mule*
Complete subject – *The mule with the blaze of white on his forehead*

To find the simple subject within the complete subject, always look for the most important word. What is the most important part of the subject in the following sentence?

The wide, brown Mississippi River flows through several states.
Simple subject – *Mississippi River*
Complete subject – *The wide, brown Mississippi River*

Fast facts –

* **The simple subject is the most important word in the complete subject.**

* **The complete subject is the simple subject and all the words that go with it.**

Name _____

Date _____

A. Read the sentences below. Look carefully at the underlined subject. What is the simple subject in each sentence? Write only the simple subject on the blank line. The first example has been done for you.

1. America's Robert Edwin Peary traveled by dog sled to the North Pole in 1909.

Robert Edwin Peary

2. Other polar explorers had failed to reach the North Pole.

3. Richard Byrd, a famous navy pilot, led an exploration to Antarctica in 1928.

4. Little America, the nickname of Byrd's base camp, was a cold spot.

5. Explorers to the North and South Poles had to learn to dress warmly.

6. A thirty-three year career made Byrd the most famous of polar explorers.

7. The Peary Expedition sparked international interest in polar exploration.

8. Low temperatures of eighty-five below were recorded at Little America.

Name _____

Date _____

B. Complete subject? Read the sentences below. Write the complete subject on the blank line. Hint – these are the same sentences used in Part A.

1. America's Robert Edwin Peary traveled by dog sled to the North Pole in 1909.

2. Other polar explorers had failed to reach the North Pole.

3. Richard Byrd, a famous navy pilot, led an exploration to Antarctica in 1928.

4. Little America, the nickname of Byrd's base camp, was a cold spot.

5. Explorers to the North and South Poles had to learn to dress warmly.

6. A thirty-three year career made Byrd the most famous of polar explorers.

7. The Peary Expedition sparked international interest in polar exploration.

8. Low temperatures of eighty-five below were recorded at Little America.

Name _____

Date _____

Answer Key

A.

1. America's Robert Edwin Peary traveled by dog sled to the North Pole in 1909.

Robert Edwin Peary

2. Other polar explorers had failed to reach the North Pole.

Explorers

3. Richard Byrd, a famous navy pilot, led an exploration to Antarctica in 1928.

Richard Byrd

4. Little America, the nickname of Byrd's base camp, was a cold spot.

Little America

5. Explorers to the North and South Poles had to learn to dress warmly.

Explorers

6. A thirty-three year career made Byrd the most famous of polar explorers.

Career

7. The Peary Expedition sparked international interest in polar exploration.

Peary Expedition

8. Low temperatures of eighty-five below were recorded at Little America.

Temperatures

B.

1. America's Robert Edwin Peary traveled by dog sled to the North Pole in 1909.

America's Robert Edwin Peary

2. Other polar explorers had failed to reach the North Pole.

Other polar explorers

3. Richard Byrd, a famous navy pilot, led an exploration to Antarctica in 1928.

Richard Byrd, a famous navy pilot

4. Little America, the nickname of Byrd's base camp, was a cold spot.

Little America, the nickname of Byrd's base camp

5. Explorers to the North and South Poles had to learn to dress warmly.

Explorers to the North and South Poles

6. A thirty-three year career made Byrd the most famous of polar explorers.

A thirty-three year career

7. The Peary Expedition sparked international interest in polar exploration.

The Peary Expedition

8. Low temperatures of eighty-five below were recorded at Little America.

Low temperatures of eighty-five below