

## Subject Plus Verb

### Learning about Sentences

#### Reading and Discussion

A **sentence** is a group of words that makes complete sense. Sentences are made from the **eight parts of speech**. We can use all eight parts of speech to make a sentence, or just two, but every sentence must have two things:

1. a subject: this is a **noun** or **pronoun**;
2. a predicate: this is a **verb**.

The **subject** of the sentence shows **who** or **what** does the action. A subject does not have to be a person. It can also be a place or a thing.

- **James** rowed the boat across the lake.
- The **boat** sprang a leak.
- **Myers Lake** was calm.
- **Swans** floated on the lake.

The verb is the **action word**. It shows what the subject **is**, **does**, or **feels**.

- James **rowed** the boat across the lake.
- The boat **sprang** a leak.
- Myers Lake **is** calm.

There are four kinds of sentences:

**1. Declarative Sentences** or **Statements** tell us something, or state a fact. Most of the sentences we use are declarative.

- Bobby likes cotton candy.

**2. Interrogative Sentences** ask a question.

- Do you like cotton candy?

**3. Imperative sentences** give a command.

- Eat your cotton candy now.

**4. Exclamatory sentences** express strong emotion or excitement.

- I love cotton candy!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Imperative sentences** can sometimes be a little confusing. You have learned that a sentence must have a subject and a verb, but the subject in imperative sentences is often invisible! Let's look at some examples:

- Eat your cotton candy now.
- Feed the goldfish.
- Jump!

Who or what is the **subject** of these sentences? It's easy to find out if you remember two things:

1. An imperative sentence is a sentence that gives a command.
2. A command is an order given to someone, so what the sentence is saying is this:
  - **You** eat your cotton candy now.
  - **You** feed the goldfish.
  - **You** jump!

The subject of most imperative sentences is you. When you is used as an invisible or unwritten subject it is called "you understood" or you implied. It means that the reader understands the subject is you.

Like declarative sentences, imperative sentences end with a **period**, and they always begin with a **capital letter**.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Activities

### **Activity A:** Let's Review

1. A sentence is a group of words that makes \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Sentences must have a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. There are \_\_\_\_\_ kinds of sentences.
4. Most of the sentences we use are \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Sentences that ask a question are called \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Sentences that give a command are called \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Sentences that show strong emotion or excitement are called \_\_\_\_\_.
8. What kind of sentence often uses an understood subject? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What word is used as an understood subject? \_\_\_\_\_
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the action word in a sentence.

### **Activity B:** Underline the subject in the following sentences. If the subject is "you understood", write the word **you** after the sentence.

1. Helen Keller was born in Alabama.
2. Scarlet fever left Helen blind, deaf and mute.
3. Annie Sullivan taught Helen how to communicate.
4. Read about Helen and Annie.
5. In 1900, Helen enrolled in Radcliffe College.
6. Helen is honored throughout the world for her courage.
7. The Miracle Worker is a famous movie based on Helen's life.
8. Learn from Helen's inspiring life.

### **Activity C:** Write an imperative sentence on the line below.

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key

### Activity A

1. A sentence is a group of words that makes complete sense.
2. Sentences must have a subject and a predicate.
3. There are four kinds of sentences.
4. Most of the sentences we use are declarative.
5. Sentences that ask a question are called interrogative.
6. Sentences that give a command are called imperative.
7. Sentences that show strong emotion or excitement are called exclamatory.
8. What kind of sentence often uses an understood subject? Imperative
9. What word is used as an understood subject? You
10. The verb is the action word in a sentence.

### Activity B

1. Helen Keller was born in Alabama.
2. Scarlet fever left Helen blind, deaf and mute.
3. Annie Sullivan taught Helen how to communicate.
4. Read about Helen and Annie. You
5. In 1900, Helen enrolled in Radcliffe College.
6. Helen is honored throughout the world for her courage.
7. The Miracle Worker is a famous movie based on Helen's life.
8. Learn from Helen's inspiring life. You

### Activity C

Answers will vary.