

SUBJECTS

Academic Skills Center Room 1501

One way to find the **SUBJECT** of a sentence is to ask this question: "**Who or what did something?**"

Examples : George ran to the store. ("Who did something?" George ran, so "George" = S.)
Ten cows jumped over the moon. ("What did something? Cows jumped, so "cows" = S)
The children were noisy. (children = S)
Tika is a tall woman. (Tika = S)

RULE 1: The subject ALWAYS comes before its verb, EXCEPT in three cases:

1. *when the sentence starts with "Here" or "There:"*

S
Here is the book.

S
There goes the bus.

2. *when the sentence starts with a prepositional phrase:*

P OP S
(In the house) are my friends.

P OP S
(After dinner) comes dessert.

3. *when the sentence is a question:*

S
What are you doing?

S
When will dinner be ready?

RULE 2: The subject of a sentence is NEVER found in a prepositional phrase.

Examples : S P OP
The lawyers (in the courtroom) argued loudly.

S P OP
Both (of the lawyers) presented their cases forcefully.

P OP S P OP
(Next week) all six cars (in the garage) will need to be washed.

P OP S P OP P OP
(Next week) each (of the eight cars) (in the garage) must be washed.

PRACTICE: Write these sentences on a sheet of paper, double spaced. Cross out prepositional phrases. Then write "S" over the subject and underline it once.

1. The boys went to a movie after dinner.
2. Francis got a 4.0 on her paper.
3. There are 32 students in my history class.
4. Why are you looking at me that way?
5. In the book are the answers to your questions.
6. The "Star Wars" movies are among my top ten favorite movies of all time.
7. The rocking chair in the living room belonged to my grandmother.
8. There is only one answer to your question.
9. Here comes the pizza that we ordered.
10. March starts like a lion and ends like a lamb.