

Simple Sentence Structure

What is a sentence? A sentence must have a subject, a verb, and express a complete thought.

A subject is a noun. A noun is a person, place, thing, or idea.

person	place	thing	idea
grandpa	church	telephone	solution
teacher	store	bottle	problem
police	park	clock	peace

A verb is usually an action. But it can be 5 others.

action	thinking process	feeling process	sense	be	possession
walk	know	want	see	is	has
drive	understand	love	hear	am	own
clean	remember	hate	taste	are	cost
write	forget	hope	touch	was	had
buy	confuse	need	smell		
talk	believe	like			

A subject does the action, thinking or feeling in a sentence. It is usually before the verb.

Examples: Mr. Lopez builds houses.

S V

She understands the grammar.

S V

*Note: in the first sentence, houses is a noun, and in the second sentence, grammar is a noun, but they are not subjects because they do not do the action of the sentence.

**Note: an infinitive is not a verb—it is a noun. She works {to make} money. (to make is an infinitive)

Underline the subjects with one line and the verbs with two lines.

1. My father lives in Korea.
2. Rosa did very well on the test.
3. His house is on St. Andrews Place.
4. Her cellphone cost \$200.
5. Your problem causes you a lot of pain.
6. Every baby needs affection from their parents.
7. The doctor sees five patients in the morning.
8. The war has cost the U.S. billions of dollars.
9. I don't know how to cook carne asada.
10. ~~Can you understand Spanish?~~
11. A relationship should begin with friendship.
12. Your family loves to go to the movies.
13. They were at home last night.
14. ~~Do you have any change?~~
15. ~~Is it too cold in here?~~

The Four Basic Simple Sentences

<u>Maria takes care</u> of 2 children.	SV
<u>Jorge and Luis study</u> here.	SSV
<u>I live and work</u> in L.A.	SVV
<u>Nancy and Karl buy and sell</u> furniture.	SSVV

Two subjects and two objects may be put together using the contractions and, but and or.

<u>My dad runs or rides</u> a bike for exercise.	SVV
<u>Anita or Diana should have</u> an extra pencil.	SSV
<u>He loves</u> food but <u>hates</u> {to cook}.	SVV

*Do not use commas unless you have 3 or more subjects or 3 or more verbs (following Comma Rule 1).

Margarita, Beatrice, and Carla study English together. SSSV

Underline the subjects and verbs and write the sentence structure formula at the end.

1. My cousin works as a parking valet. _____ SV _____
2. The American Indians lived on this land for thousands of years. _____
3. The students haven't started the exercise yet. _____
4. Jack and Sam have good jobs in banking. _____
5. We always make and drink our coffee at home _____
6. Rachel and Tony love dogs and have 3. _____
7. I think a lot about my country. _____
8. Mexico and the U.S. are neighbors. _____
9. Computers and the internet have changed our world. _____
10. She needs a car but doesn't have a license. _____
11. The kids can swim or can play tennis. _____
12. My wife wants to go back to Mexico. _____
13. ~~Is Charlie from Guatemala?~~ _____
14. ~~Does President Obama speak a second language?~~ _____
15. My socks, my pants, and my shoes are old. _____
16. Jim does the dishes, vacuums the floors, and cleans the bathroom. _____
17. Fred doesn't smoke, drink, or take drugs. _____
18. Zelda was watching TV and reading all evening. _____
19. ~~When did that movie come out?~~ _____
20. ~~Are you reading any good books?~~ _____