

Lesson 3: Simple Subjects

LEARN

- The **simple subject** is the most important word in the complete subject. The simple subject tells exactly *whom* or *what* the subject is about.
- Sometimes the subject of a sentence is just one word. Sometimes it is a name. Then the simple subject and the complete subject are the same. Most of the time, however, the simple subject is part of the complete subject.

In the chart below the simple subjects are shown in **boldface**.

| Complete Subject | Complete Predicate |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| The school librarian | gave me a book. |
| The book | was about Helen Keller. |
| Helen Keller | lost her hearing and sight. |
| She | needed a special teacher. |



Helen Keller sitting at a desk

PRACTICE

A The complete subject in each sentence is in **boldface**. Circle the simple subject in the complete subject. Write it on the line.

1. **This book** is about Helen Keller's remarkable life. book
2. **Helen Keller** became ill at the age of 19 months. Helen Keller
3. **The mysterious illness** left her blind and deaf. illness
4. **Anne Sullivan** was Helen's teacher. Anne Sullivan
5. **The gifted teacher** taught Helen how to read and write. teacher
6. **Helen** graduated from college in 1904 with Anne's help. Helen
7. **The two women** traveled around the world. women

- 8. The proud **student** told people her story. student
- 9. Large **audiences** learned an important lesson from her. audiences
- 10. An **independent life** is possible even with physical challenges. life

B *Underline the complete subject in each sentence. Then circle the simple subject, and write it on the line.*

- 1. Levi Strauss made the first blue jeans in the 1870s. Levi Strauss
- 2. He was born in a part of Europe called Bavaria. He
- 3. This area is now a part of Germany. area
- 4. Strauss moved to New York in 1847. Strauss
- 5. Levi joined the family clothing business. Levi
- 6. The young man brought the business to California. man
- 7. Many people searched for gold in California. people
- 8. The gold miners bought the pants Levi made. miners
- 9. A heavy blue fabric made the pants strong. fabric
- 10. The family business expanded quickly. business
- 11. Many Americans wanted the waist overalls. Americans
- 12. "Waist overalls" was the old name for jeans. overalls



C Write a complete subject to complete each sentence. Choose a complete subject from the box, or use a complete subject of your own. Then circle the simple subject.

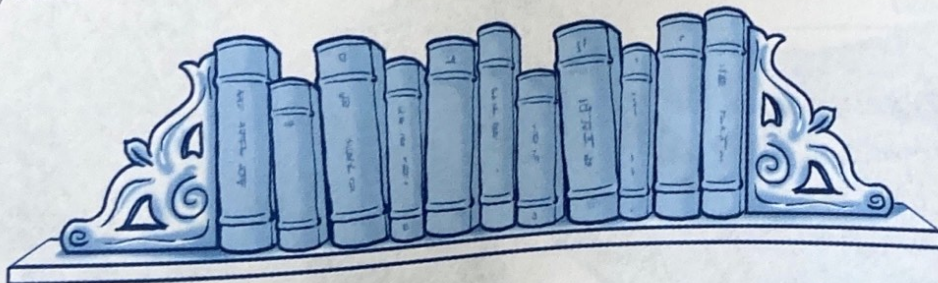
Answers will vary. Suggested answers are given.

Most readers Exciting historical events
The person A biography Everyday events

_____ **A biography** _____ tells the story of a person's life. _____ **The person** _____ might be an artist, an athlete, or a president. _____ **Most readers** _____ enjoy biographies very much. _____ **Exciting historical events** _____ come alive in a well-written biography. _____ **Everyday events** _____ can be interesting, too.

A biographer These written records
The actual writing Most authors Research

_____ **Most authors** _____ work very hard on biographies. _____ **Research** _____ is the first part of their job. _____ **A biographer** _____ must read old letters, diaries, and news stories about a person. _____ **These written records** _____ reveal a great deal about the person. _____ **The actual writing** _____ can take years and years.



Remember



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



WRITE



Sometimes two related sentences have the same predicate.

Lena read a biography of Harriet Tubman.

Her friend read a biography of Harriet Tubman.

When this happens you can combine the subjects and form one sentence. Use the word *and* to join the subjects. Combining the sentences in this way will make your writing smoother.

Lena **and** her friend read a biography of Harriet Tubman.

D Each pair of sentences below has the same predicate. Combine the sentences by joining the subjects.

1. Harriet Tubman lived in slavery. Her family lived in slavery. _____

Harriet Tubman **and** her family lived in slavery.

2. Hardship shaped their lives. Struggles shaped their lives. _____

Hardship **and** struggles shaped their lives.

3. Harriet Tubman escaped. Her parents escaped. _____

Harriet Tubman **and** her parents escaped.

4. Slave owners looked for Tubman. The police looked for Tubman. _____

Slave owners **and** the police looked for Tubman.

5. Tubman never got caught. The slaves with her never got caught. _____

Tubman **and** the slaves with her never got caught.

6. Careful planning led to her success. Quick thinking led to her success. _____

Careful planning **and** quick thinking led to her success.



Go back to the sentences you wrote.
Underline the subjects you combined.
Circle the word that joins them.