

Types of Subjects

Subject/Verb Core

Simple sentence:

1. The dinosaurs are extinct.
2. Octavio plays soccer well.
3. Julie opened a new restaurant.

Direct Address

Stated subject:

1. Tobias, your pants are in the washer.
2. Bill, I need a ride home.
3. Elizabeth, do you know where my keys are?

Direct Address

The understood you:

1. Gary, put on some deodorant.
2. Kathy, put away your toys.
3. Marge, give Bart a ride to school.

Infinitive Subject

To plus a verb that serves as a noun:

1. To dance too hard can leave one breathless.
2. To swim every day is good for the heart.
3. To eat too much is bad for the stomach.
4. (Plural) To eat fruits and vegetables are good habits.
5. (Plural) To do your homework and chores makes for proud parents.

Gerund Phrase

Verbal phrase with an “-ing” ending that functions as a noun:

1. Driving your car too much can burn through your gas.
2. Biking every day is a good alternative.
3. Drinking too much can make you feel bad the next day.
4. (Plural) Laughing and yelling too long can leave your voice hoarse.
5. (Plural) Heading down the street and moving down the alley can be a good shortcut.

NOTE: In sentences with Infinitives and Gerunds as subject, the subject starts with the infinitive/gerund and ends with the first verb. Prepositional phrases in these subjects are not marked as such and are considered *part of the subject*.

1. Fighting in the third round will be last year’s middle-weight champion.
 2. Swinging through the trees were a pair of monkeys.
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Placement of Subject in a Sentence

Most of the time, your subject is placed before the verb, though sometimes the verb comes first and may be preceded by one or more words. If a sentence begins with *here* or *there*, or a question begins with *when*, *where*, *how*, or *why*, the subject is likely to follow the verb.

1. Across the river stands a house.
2. There is the castle.
3. When is your paper due?
4. Why is he so serious?