

# Canadian Grammar Practice



### Includes

- Parts of Speech
- Verb Tenses
- Punctuation
- Proofreading Activities
- Grammar Quizzes

**Direct Objects of Verbs**

A direct object is the person or thing (noun or pronoun) that receives the action named by an action verb. To find the direct object in a sentence, follow these steps:

1. Identify the simple subject of the sentence.  
Example: The noisy children chased the dog around the yard.  
The simple subject is children.
2. Identify the action verb that tells what the subject is doing.  
Example: The noisy children chased the dog around the yard.  
The action verb is chased.
3. Create a question as shown below.  
Simple subject + action verb + whom or what?  
For the example sentence above, you would ask: Children chased whom or what? (Answer: the dog)  
The answer to the question is the direct object of the action verb chased.

Sometimes an action verb has more than one direct object. Look at the examples below.  
Example: Lars often helps Eddie and Tom.  
Lars helps whom or what? (Answer: Eddie and Tom)  
In the example sentence, Eddie and Tom are the direct objects of the action verb helps.

An action verb doesn't always have a direct object.  
Example: The musician played the piano.  
Musicians played who or what?  
The sentence does not have a direct object.

Example: The musician played the piano.  
Musicians play the piano.  
In this version, the piano is the direct object of the action verb play.

**Adjective or Adverb?**

Some words can be used as an adjective or an adverb. Look at the examples below.

Example 1: We publish our newsletter weekly.  
In the first sentence, weekly is an adverb describing the verb publish. In the second sentence, weekly is an adjective describing the noun trip.

Example 2: Thomas is the most reliable person I know.  
In the first sentence, most is an adverb describing the adjective reliable. (Remember that adverbs can describe verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs.) In the second sentence, most is an adjective describing the noun people.

Below are more words that can be used as an adjective or an adverb.  
early late hard high fast low

Decide whether the underlined word is used as an adjective or an adverb. Then complete the next sentence.

Example: This paper is suitable for use in most printers.  
Most is an adjective describing the noun printers.

- Lorenza gave the most convincing reasons to support her opinion.  
Most is an \_\_\_\_\_ describing the \_\_\_\_\_.
- The panther hunched low to the ground as it stalked its prey.  
Low is an \_\_\_\_\_ describing the \_\_\_\_\_.
- You'll need to take an early train if you want to arrive by noon.  
Early is an \_\_\_\_\_ describing the \_\_\_\_\_.



# How You Can Help Your Child at Home

## Tips for Grammar Practice

- Have your child read the grammar lesson aloud to you, or take turns reading alternate sentences or paragraphs together.
- Talk with your child about what they have read, and brainstorm other examples that relate to the specific grammar lesson.
- Discuss the meanings of unfamiliar words that they read and hear.
- Help your child monitor his or her understanding of what they have read. Encourage your child to consistently ask themselves whether they understand what the lesson is about.
- To ensure understanding of the grammar lesson, have them retell what they have read.

## Tips for Completing Review Quizzes

- Review instructions with your child to ensure they understand the questions.
- Encourage your child to go back to the grammar lesson to review the information, and to support his or her answers. Then have your child highlight the important information from the lesson to help them answer the question.
- Offer your child ample opportunities to share with you their answers and the thinking processes they used to arrive at those answers.

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# Types of Sentences

There are four types of sentences:

- **declarative sentences**
- **imperative sentences**
- **exclamatory sentences**
- **interrogative sentences**

A **declarative sentence** makes a statement that communicates information or ideas. Use a period at the end of a declarative sentence.

*Examples: Dinosaurs became extinct about 65 million years ago.  
Amanda and Todd crept silently down the dark hallway.  
I like volleyball, but basketball is my favourite sport.  
It takes years of training to become an astronaut.*

An **imperative sentence** gives a command or makes a request. Use a period at the end of an imperative sentence.

*Examples: Wait for the traffic light to change before you cross the street.  
Please take your boots off when you come into the house.  
Stir the mixture until all ingredients are combined.  
Calmly leave the building as soon as you hear the fire alarm.*

An **exclamatory sentence** expresses any strong emotion. Use an exclamation point at the end of an exclamatory sentence.

*Examples: Our boat is sinking!  
We won the game!  
Today is the worst day of my life!  
You're dripping paint everywhere!*

An **interrogative sentence** asks a question. Use a question mark at the end of an interrogative sentence.

*Examples: Has anyone seen my math notebook?  
Are you sure you remembered to lock the front door?  
Is it raining outside?  
You're going on vacation next week, aren't you?*

## Types of Sentences (continued)

Identify the sentence type, and add the correct **punctuation mark** at the end of each sentence.

a) Turn off the computer before you unplug it

Sentence type: \_\_\_\_\_

b) Why would you ask such a ridiculous question

Sentence type: \_\_\_\_\_

c) You'd better not get close to that rattlesnake

Sentence type: \_\_\_\_\_

d) The phone was ringing, but I didn't answer it

Sentence type: \_\_\_\_\_

e) Please hand in your assignments by next Tuesday

Sentence type: \_\_\_\_\_

f) We did the right thing, didn't we

Sentence type: \_\_\_\_\_

g) There's an angry bear right behind you

Sentence type: \_\_\_\_\_

## Types of Sentences (continued)

h) I read several good books by this author

Sentence type: \_\_\_\_\_

i) How long did it take police to catch the criminal

Sentence type: \_\_\_\_\_

j) Don't forget that it's your turn to clean the bathroom

Sentence type: \_\_\_\_\_

k) That tall boy is the fastest runner on the track team

Sentence type: \_\_\_\_\_

l) How many times have you read that book

Sentence type: \_\_\_\_\_

m) You need to run or you'll be late for school

Sentence type: \_\_\_\_\_

n) Please help me set the table for supper

Sentence type: \_\_\_\_\_

o) What kind of dog do you have

Sentence type: \_\_\_\_\_

# Complete Subjects and Complete Predicates

There are two parts to a sentence. These parts are called the **complete subject** and the **complete predicate**.

## Complete Subject

The complete subject contains all the words that tell **who or what** the sentence is about. In the examples below, the complete subject is in bold.

*Example: **A brown squirrel** ran along the fence.*

This sentence is about a squirrel. The complete subject contains **all** the words that tell about the squirrel.

*Example: **The house with the green roof** caught fire last week.*

This sentence is about a house. The complete subject contains **all** the words that tell about the house.

## Complete Predicate

The **complete predicate** includes the **verb** and **all** the words that tell about what happened in the sentence. In the examples below, the complete predicate is underlined.

*Example: Fluffy clouds drifted across the sky.*

The verb in this sentence is *drifted*. The other underlined words help to tell about what happened in the sentence.

*Example: Mr. and Mrs. Ramirez wait patiently for the rain to stop.*

The verb in this sentence is *wait*. The other underlined words help to tell about what happened in the sentence.

Every word in a sentence will be part the complete subject **or** part of the complete predicate. In the examples below, the complete subject is in bold, and the complete predicate is underlined.

*Examples: **A man wearing sunglasses and a black coat** knocked on our door yesterday.*

***The willow trees in the backyard** swayed back and forth in the wind.*

***All the players on my baseball team** came to the practice last Tuesday.*

## Complete Subjects and Complete Predicates (continued)

1. In each sentence, **underline** all the words in the **complete subject**.

- a) Colourful fireworks exploded in the night sky.
- b) The hungry lion pounced on the antelope.
- c) The passengers on the train showed their tickets to the conductor.
- d) The loud barking of the dog next door woke me up early this morning.
- e) My mischievous cousins from Detroit played a trick on me.
- f) That part of the movie was so scary I had to cover my eyes.
- g) The roaring race car sped around the track.
- h) Hundreds of excited people attended the concert.
- i) Her beautiful wavy hair looked perfect on picture day.

2. In each sentence, **underline** all the words in the **complete predicate**.

- a) The pilot flew the plane right across the Atlantic Ocean.
- b) The snake slithered into the shade under a rock.
- c) The lovely colours of the rainbow made me feel happy.
- d) The flashing lights of the police car reflected off the windows of the houses.
- e) The new couch in the family room folds out into a bed.
- f) In the winter many people ski in the mountains.
- g) The colourful fall leaves tumbled and twirled in the wind.
- h) The herd of sheep moved quickly around the field in one large group.
- i) The variety store in our neighbourhood closes down at the end of this week.

## Complete Subjects and Complete Predicates (continued)

3. In each sentence, draw a **vertical line** between the **complete subject** and the **complete predicate**.

*Example: The woman's new engagement ring | sparkled in the bright light.*

- a) The children wear sunscreen on sunny days.
- b) My friend Patricia sings in the school choir with me.
- c) The long scarf with yellow polka dots keeps me warm on cold days.
- d) The captain of our volleyball team sprained her ankle last week.
- e) The last two chapters in the book describe a number of important inventions.
- f) A goal in the final minutes of the game made our team the champions.

4. Identify whether the bold part of each sentence is the **complete subject** or the **complete predicate**. Circle **CS** for the complete subject or **CP** for the complete predicate.

- a) **Hundreds of runners** ran in the marathon this weekend.      **CS**    **CP**
- b) The striped orange cat **sleeps for hours in the sunshine.**      **CS**    **CP**
- c) My Uncle Troy **lent me his skis for our trip.**      **CS**    **CP**
- d) **The tiny maple key** took ten years to grow into a tall tree.      **CS**    **CP**
- e) **My left foot** hurt badly after I fell off the swing.      **CS**    **CP**
- f) Our German shepherd puppy **learned to roll over today.**      **CS**    **CP**
- g) My family **is moving to a new town next spring.**      **CS**    **CP**
- h) **Everyone says my Aunt Shelley** has a green thumb.      **CS**    **CP**
- i) Seven skinny snakes **slithered slightly south of the slope.**      **CS**    **CP**

## Complete Subjects and Complete Predicates (continued)

### Complete Subjects

Remember that words describing who or what the sentence is about are part of the complete subject. In the examples on this page, the complete subject is in bold, and the complete predicate is underlined.

*Example: **Mrs. Gordon, the school principal**, came to our classroom this morning.*

The words *the school principal* describe the person the sentence is about, so these words are part of the complete subject.

### Complete Predicates

Sometimes a helping verb is used with the main verb in a sentence. The helping verb is part of the complete predicate. Some examples of helping verbs are shown below.

*am, is, are, were, be, been*      **The noisy children** were playing outside my window.

*have, has, had*      **My grandfather** has planted tulips in his garden.

*do, does, did*      **My baby sister** does cry often.

*can, could*      **This old tree** could fall down during a storm.

*may, might*      **A deep cut** may need stitches.

*will, would*      **The thick fog** will disappear soon.

*should, must*      **All drivers** must stop at a red light.

Sometimes more than one helping verb is used with the main verb.

*Examples: **The busy student** must have finished her homework by now.*

***Both of my brothers** have been taking swimming lessons all summer.*

Watch for adverbs that come before the verb in the complete predicate.

*Example: **My best friend** usually walks to school with me in the mornings.*

The adverb *usually* describes the verb *walks*, so *usually* is part of the complete predicate.

*Example: **The grocery store across the street** always closes at 9:00 p.m. on Fridays.*

The adverb *always* describes the verb *closes*, so *always* is part of the complete predicate.

## More About Complete Subjects and Complete Predicates

1. In each sentence, **underline** all the words in the **complete subject**.

- a) Mr. Gibbons, the owner of the house across the street, has put in a swimming pool.
- b) The number of wild giraffes in the world decreases with each passing year.
- c) This charm bracelet, a gift from my parents, came with two charms on it.
- d) Thousands of communication satellites in space orbit around Earth.
- e) This historic building, once a post office, needs renovation.
- f) People who never trust others are often not trustworthy themselves.
- g) Some baby spiders hatch from eggs in the springtime.
- h) This piece of amethyst, from a mine in Thunder Bay, is a very deep shade of purple.
- i) The idea of the world's tallest mountain tempted the man to climb Mount Everest.

2. In each sentence, **underline** all the words in the **complete predicate**.

- a) A team of scientists recently discovered the bones of a huge prehistoric snake.
- b) A parking lot downtown may become the site of a new shopping mall.
- c) A huge asteroid has been spotted near the outer edge of our solar system.
- d) The elderly woman with two grocery bags cautiously walked along the icy sidewalk.
- e) The sun gradually rose above the snow-covered mountaintops.
- f) A large red bump came up on the girl's forehead where the ball hit her.
- g) What I like to do best on my birthday is see a movie with my whole family.
- h) Many people believe being kind to others is a way to be kind to yourself.

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