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Subject

The subject of a sentence is the person, place, thing, or idea that is doing or being something. You can find the subject of a sentence if you can find the verb. Ask the question, "Who or what 'verbs' or 'verbed'?" and the answer to that question is the subject. For instance, in the sentence "The computers in the Learning Center must be replaced," the verb is "must be replaced." What must be replaced? The computers. So the subject is "computers." A simple subject is the subject of a sentence stripped of modifiers. The simple subject of the following sentence is issue: The really important issue of the conference, stripped of all other considerations, is the morality of the nation. Sometimes, though, a simple subject can be more than one word, even an entire clause. In the following sentence — What he had already forgotten about computer repair could fill whole volumes, —the simple subject is not "computer repair," nor is it "what he had forgotten," nor is it "he." Ask what it is that "could fill whole volumes." Your answer should be that the entire underlined clause is the simple subject.In English, the subject of a command, order, or suggestion — you, the person being directed — is usually left out of the sentence and is said to be the understood subject: [You] Step lively there or I'll leave you behind! Before assembling the swingset, [you] read these instructions carefully. For purposes of sentence analysis, the do-er or the initiator of action in a sentence is referred to as the agent of the sentence. In an active sentence, the subject is the agent. The Johnsons added a double garage to their house. The jury returned a verdict of manslaughter. In a passive sentence, the agent is not the subject. In fact, sometimes a passive sentence will not contain an agent. The dean's report was reviewed by the faculty senate. Three cities in the country's interior were bombed. Subject-Verb Inversion The normal English order of subject-verb-completer is disturbed only occasionally but under several circumstances. Burchfield* lists about ten situations in which the subject will come after the verb. The most important of these are as follows (subjects in blue): In questions (routinely): "Have you eaten breakfast yet?" "Are you ready?" In expletive constructions: "There were four basic causes of the Civil War." "Here is the book." In attributing speech (occasionally, but optionally): "'Help me!' cried Farmer Brown." To give prominence or focus to a particular word or phrase by putting the predicate in the initial position: "Even more important is the chapter dealing with ordnance." When a sentence begins with an adverb or an adverbial phrase or clause: "Seldom has so much been owed by so many to so few." In negative constructions: "I don't believe a word she says, nor does my brother. Come to think of it, neither does her father." After so: "I believe her; so does my brother." For emphasis and literary effect: "Into the jaws of Death, / Into the mouth of Hell / Rode the six hundred."** There are other uses of inversion, but most of those result in a strained or literary effect. Subjects: typical errors ... skip to content you are here Search for relevant qualifications and resources by subject. Use the Tab and Up, Down arrow keys to select menu items. Learn more about the different subjects offered at UC using this undergraduate subject list or the postgraduate subject list. A subject is a particular area of study that UC offers courses in eg, Accounting, French, Geology, or Mathematics. If you're seeing this message, it means we're having trouble loading external resources on our website. If you're behind a web filter, please make sure that the domains *.kastatic.org and *.kasandbox.org are unblocked. 1 : the person or thing that is being discussed or described : topic The new museum is the subject of an article in today's paper. Death is a difficult subject that few people like to talk about. I need to break the news to her, but I'm not sure how to bring up the subject. If you're interested in linguistics, I know an excellent book on the/that subject. an excellent book on the subject of linguistics While we're on the subject of [—talking about] work, have you met the new boss? Every time I talk to her, we seem to get on/onto the subject of work. [=we start talking about work] These meetings would be much shorter if we could keep him from getting off the subject. I didn't want to talk about work, so I changed the subject. [=started a new topic of conversation] When he started getting upset, I dropped the subject. [=stopped talking about that topic] The morality of capital punishment is a frequent subject of/for debate. [+] more examples [-] hide examples [+] Example sentences [-] Hide examples 2 : an area of knowledge that is studied in school Chemistry was my favorite subject in high school. The classes cover a variety of subject areas, including mathematics and English. 3 : a person or thing that is being dealt with in a particular way — + of He was the subject of a criminal investigation. [=he was investigated to find out if he had committed a crime] She was the subject of a lawsuit. 4 : someone or something that is shown in a photograph, painting, etc. Love between a mother and child is the subject of many of her paintings. The photographer's principal subjects were poor immigrant workers. What kind of exposure should I use for a dark subject on a light background? 5 : a person or animal that is used in an experiment, study, etc. Each subject was asked to fill out a questionnaire. The hospital is recruiting test subjects for the study. 6 grammar : a noun, noun phrase, or pronoun that performs the action of a verb in a sentence In English, the subject goes before the verb and the object comes after. "He" is the subject (of the verb "kissed") in the sentence "He kissed me." — compare object 7 : a person who lives in a country that is ruled by a king or queen : a citizen of a monarchy 1A person or thing that is being discussed, described, or dealt with: I've said all there is to be said on the subject 'he's the subject of a major new biography' They have a guest speaker at their monthly meetings, dealing with subjects diverse and interesting. 'He wrote five works on the subject, the most important of which is one on inference.' In the beginning, conditions in the camp were tolerable and some prisoners, being specialists in certain fields, would entertain themselves by lecturing to others on diverse subjects. "Since all three of these surfaces have been subjects of projects for me, I could not resist the temptation to illustrate The Proof of Archytas.' They do this because they think one should discuss questions about goodness, justice and expediency in this place which was founded by the man who made all these subjects his business." Indeed, throughout the book there is the recurrent suggestion that a grand connection between the two subjects will be revealed. "Columella was a Roman soldier and farmer who wrote extensively on agriculture and similar subjects, hoping to foster in people a love for farming and a liking for the simple life." Most mathematicians study the subject because they develop such a deep love of the topic. "Find something that you think would make a good subject and submit a proposal." Despite some bold statements, the subject always came back to science. "We welcome proposals suggesting new subjects for review essays, both within and across disciplines." Rowlands tried but failed to secure an emergency parliamentary statement on the subject. "With that as his last statement on the subject, suddenly, he too was racing out the door." Mr Smith should present reasoned arguments, not use broad sweeping statements about subjects which it seems he does not fully understand. "Another indication may be whether I am asked to speak about a subject that involves this statement." The Musical Times is a quarterly journal that considers for publication articles on a wide variety of musical subjects. "It seems clear from the responses that we prefer to put to the backs of our minds unpalatable subjects such as injury, death, being left without a partner or our children being orphaned." But too often he speaks his mind on subjects best left alone, and he will undoubtedly upset someone, somewhere. "When I went to the library to see if there was anything on the subject there was very little." Anything written on the subject is now a look back at a historical event. 'theme, subject matter, topic, issue, question, concern, text, thesis, content, point, motif, threadView synonyms2A branch of knowledge studied or taught in a school, college, or university. 'maths is not my best subject' It is important for young people to have training opportunities, but the place for teaching these subjects is at college. "It is there that subjects are taught in Gaelic, the only college in Scotland where this happens." On the other hand, districts have used shortages to rationalize the employment of people who have not studied and do not know the subjects they will teach. "He is now attached to a primary school, even though he is qualified to teach politics and other subjects in middle schools." Immersion programs, in which some or all academic subjects are taught in the foreign language, are content based. "Even kindergartens teach kids advanced subjects such as math, English and Chinese characters." They bought a cottage on the main street and converted it into a shop called Reading Glasses which specializes in women's studies and social sciences, the subjects she used to teach. "Physical Education lessons are part of the National Curriculum and therefore the subject is taught in schools up and down the country." "I was taught all the regular subjects, algebra and trigonometry, English and classical literature, history and current events." Why can English and maths not be taught within subjects like history and geography rather than separately? The standing of the teaching profession is such that those leaving schools with high performances in science and technology related subjects do not choose teaching as a career. "The names of the high school and college subjects in this story have been changed for the sake of privacy." He was principal of Granville High School and taught a variety of subjects in Ohio public schools. "Besides content, the manner in which subjects are taught has differential effects on the children of those in dominant and subordinate positions." Academic freedom is not to be completely free to decide what subjects to teach, or even what material to cover, but free to write and express new ideas. "They gain knowledge of subjects in which they are and are not interested." The National Curriculum, stipulating subjects to be studied until the age of 16, is also introduced. "He realised that a writer had to widen his mind when he encountered cartoonist Madan's multifaceted knowledge of subjects from anthropology to psychology." So from that we can conclude that girls have more knowledge about the subjects which are examined in today's society than boys. "Mr. Burke is quick to caution that no education is free of cultural bias, even if the subject being taught is physics or biology." branch of knowledge, branch of study, course of study, course, discipline, field, area, specialism, speciality, specialtyView synonyms3A member of a state other than its ruler, especially one owing allegiance to a monarch or other supreme ruler: 'the legislation is applicable only to British subjects' 'In saltana, there are no citizens, only subjects, while the ruler is unaccountable except to God.' After all, in opening the gallery in 1962, she had been the first British monarch to let her subjects give the family silverware to the Antiques Roadshow once-over. "The relationship that the population of Northern Ireland - elites and ordinary people - have to the peace process is like that of subjects to a monarch." According to the Islamic Treatise on Holy Law, the ruler comes to power by an agreement between the ruler and his subjects. "The strange case of Duleep Singh, Victoria's favorite Maharaja: a ruler without any subjects." The gulf between the union's rulers and their subjects is now unbridgeable. "They were primarily to secure the allegiance of their subject, with most barons providing military service." These historians believe that the Taj Mahal symbolizes the tyranny of a powerful ruler exploiting his subjects and flaunting his magnificence to the world. "These answers are interchangeable and, what is more important, absolve both rulers and subjects from facing reality and taking responsibility." The films shared a common theme: the princess-turned-stunt-woman must conquer evil power in the kingdom and set free good subjects and rulers. "Rather, diverse theories have been employed to explain why rulers and subjects think and act as they do and how their thoughts and actions shape the course of politics." They had suffered severe persecution since 1570, when the Pope had excommunicated Elizabeth, releasing her subjects from their allegiance to her. "She argues that the identification of subjects as tribe members or peasants reflects very different terms of access to resources in the eyes of the state." The traditional ruler explained that his subjects had vowed to vote for any of the opposition parties that may adopt candidates from the local people living in Chibuli. "The very nature of this prohibition makes it ideally adapted to produce direct effects in the legal relationship between Member States and their subjects." The priests were said to use the sacraments to make the Queen's subjects switch their allegiance to the King of Spain. "The highest duty of a ruler is to protect his subjects; the ruler who enjoys the rewards of his position is bound to that duty." Rulers are above their subjects, at a distance, and not fully observed.' He was most tolerant of all Mughal rulers and let his subjects practice their faiths without any fear of persecution. "An increasing number of subjects felt that members of the royal family wished to be ordinary people when it suited them, royal when it did not, citizen, national, native, resident, inhabitantliege, liegeman, vassal, subordinate, underlingView synonyms4Grammar A noun or noun phrase functioning as one of the main components of a clause, being the element about which the rest of the clause is predicated. This style is formal, favouring noun clauses as subjects and objects, and often postponing the main verb, or distancing it from the subject. "Two of the subjects produced target language variants of the two structures more consistently after pronoun subjects than after subjects containing a noun." "An incidental point: once we have accusative subjects, the third-person singular verb form comes in here comes me is just what we'd expect." There are verbs taking a subject and two objects and a subordinate clause. "Government is an extension of the traditional term whereby a verb governs its object, but for Chomsky prepositions may govern and subjects may be governed."5Philosophy A thinking or feeling entity; the conscious mind; the ego, especially as opposed to anything external to the mind. 'In the latter case some go as far as speaking unhesitatingly of the mind as a subject - or a self, ego, or even a soul.' "In the philosophy of consciousness a subject has over against it a world of objects." Object in his parlance means something met with in experience, or in the subject's consciousness.'

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