Complete Sentences

1. Start with a **capital letter**

2. Have **end punctuation** (., ?, !)

3. Have a **subject** (S)

4. Have a **verb** (V)

5. **Make sense**

   ![Diagram](house) S ←→ V .?!
The Subject

The person, place, thing, quality, or idea that the sentence is about.

Examples:

Jenna went for a walk. (Person)
The store was closed. (Place)
Balloons rose into the sky. (Things)
Silence filled the streets. (Quality)
Peace was declared at midnight. (Idea)
Action Verb

A word that shows the action of the subject of the sentence.

Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body actions</th>
<th>Mind actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>walk</td>
<td>think</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>run</td>
<td>want</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The PENS Strategy

Pick a formula

Explore words to fit the formula

Note the words

Search and check
Search & Check Step

M
Ask "Is there a verb?"

A
Root out the subject
(Ask, "Who or what _____?")

K
Key in on the
• beginning
• ending
• meaning
Linking Verbs

Words that link the subject to another word that describes the subject.

Am Was
Are Were
Is Seem

Be
Been
Become
Verb

A word that shows the action or state-of-being of the subject.
Search & Check Step

Mark out imposters
  • infinitives
  • prepositional phrases

Ask “Is there a verb?”

Root out the subject
  (“Who or what _____?”)

Key in on the
  • beginning
  • ending
  • meaning
A Bee Flies _____ the Bottle

Developed by Sandy Van Pelt
Prepositions

about  down  past
above  during  since
across  except  through
after  for  throughout
gainst  from  to
amid  in  toward
among  inside  under
around  into  underneath
at 
before  like  until
behind  up
below  upon
beneath  with
beside  of  within
between  off  without
beyond  on
by  over

out  outside of
Adjective

A word that describes a noun.

Main Subject

The one word that best tells what the sentence is about.
Helping Verbs

Words that help the main verb show the action in a sentence.
Helping Verbs

am  are

is

can  may  might  must

could

shall  should

do  does  did

was  were

has  have  had

will  would

be  being  been
Adverbs

Words that add information about the action of the subject of the sentence.

They show

• When
• Where
• How
• To what extent
  (how often, how much)
  the action takes place.