Student Success Grammar Skills

Great for Homeschool!



Ashan R. Hampton

Student Success Grammar Skills

Boost Your Writing Skills



Ashan R. Hampton



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Contents



Chapter 1: Basic Sentences	9
Basic Sentence Exercise	
Answers: Basic Sentence Exercise	14
Chapter 2: Parts of Speech	15
Parts of Speech Exercise	19
Answers: Parts of Speech Exercise	20
Chapter 3: Adjectives	21
Adjective Exercise	23
Answers: Adjective Exercise	24
Chapter 4: Adverbs	25
Adverbs Exercise	29
Answers: Adverbs Exercise	30
Chapter 5: Articles	31
Knowledge Check	34
Articles Exercise	35
Answers: Articles Exercise	36
Chapter 6: Relative Pronouns	37
Relative Pronouns Exercise	41
Answers: Relative Pronouns Exercise	42
Chapter 7: Verbs	43
Verb Exercise	49
Answers: Verb Exercise	50
Chapter 8: Mood	51
Knowledge Check	54
Mood Exercise	55
Answers: Mood Exercise	56
Chapter 9: Plurals	
Plural Exercise	61
Answers: Plural Exercise	62
Chapter 10: Contractions	63
Contraction Exercise	
Answers: Contraction Exercise	66

Chapter One Basic Sentences



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What is a Sentence?

A sentence is a group of words that includes a subject and a verb. A sentence expresses a complete thought.

In basic sentence structure, the subject comes before the verb. Additional phrases or descriptions that complete or enhance the sentence (objects and complements) usually follow the verb.

Basic Sentence Structure

Subject + **Verb** + **Object/Complement/Phrase/Clause** (completion of the statement) = a complete sentence.

Simple Subject

The **subject** of a sentence is a noun or pronoun that performs the action of the verb. The **simple subject** consists of one word. Adjectives or other modifiers are not included in the simple subject. The **subject** of a sentence is commonly identified with a single underline.

Example:

Neka finished her homework.

Complete Subject

The **complete subject** includes the simple subject and all the words that come before the verb. In this example, **beachball** is the simple subject. However, **the red**, **plastic beachball** is the complete subject.

Example:

The red, plastic beachball bounced across the street.

Simple Verb

The **simple verb** usually consists of one action word written in the past or present tense. In the example below, **finished** is a simple, past tense verb. The **verb** of a sentence is commonly identified with a double underline.

Example:

Neka <u>finished</u> her homework.

The Predicate (Complete Verb)

The **complete predicate** includes a simple verb and all the words that come after the verb.

Example:

Terry ate a turkey sandwich after football practice.

In this example, the entire underlined phrase is called the predicate. Notice that the predicate starts with the verb "ate" and includes all the other words that follow. Note: "After football practice" is a prepositional phrase that adds descriptive information to the sentence.