

Track Your Progress - Writing Skill: Simple Sentences

As you work through the tasks on simple sentences, keep track of your progress. Record your score for the *Performance Check*, *Self Check*, and *Performance Test*.

Correct: Write the total number of questions you answer correctly.

Incorrect: Write the number (ie. 3b) of each question left unanswered or incorrect.

For each question in the Work Needed box --

- 1. Find the page with the description of the skill.
- 2. Talk outloud through the description and examples.

Think to write --

- 3. Find a task on the performance of the skill. Use the description to perform it.



	CORRECT	NOT SURE/ WORK NEEDED
Performance Check		
Self Check		
Performance Test		

Performance Check: Simple Sentences

What do you know about writing simple sentences? Answer as many questions as you can. If you are not sure about the answer, put a check (✓) in the NOT SURE circle.

1) Check each complete simple sentence

- ☐ The bus stopped.
- ☐ The driver saw the child.
- ☐ Run to the door.
- ☐ Put the child in the seat.

2) Check the two main parts of a simple sentence

- ☐ Noun
- ☐ Subject
- ☐ Pronoun
- ☐ Verb
- ☐ Predicate
- ☐ Prepositional phrase

3) Circle the sentence parts in the correct order.

Predicate	Subject	Complement
-----------	---------	------------

Complement	Subject	Predicate
------------	---------	-----------

Subject	Predicate	Complement
---------	-----------	------------

4) Circle the prepositional phrases in the sentences.

- ☐ The person dressed for the interview.
- ☐ The company wanted employees with communication skills.
- ☐ The person arrived on time with a resume.

5) Which two information questions are transitions of the simple sentence? Check the boxes.

Simple sentence: The conductor takes the tickets.

- ☐ When did the conductor take the tickets?
- ☐ When did the train stop?
- ☐ Who takes the tickets?
- ☐ Was the train on time?

Clue 2 -- Three of the following lines of words are complete sentences. The other lines are sentence fragments because one of the sentence parts is missing.

→ Read the six lines of words. Circle the lines that are complete sentences.

1. The rider hit a rock.
2. The bike was a wreck.
3. Sat on the ground.
4. Saw stars in the air.
5. Felt his head.
6. The helmet was still there.



How do you know which lines are complete sentences? Look at the first two words in the line.

→ Write the first two words in each complete sentence.

(*The, an, a* signal a name is coming.)

The first words in the complete sentence are the name of something. They are followed by words that tell what the thing named *does, has, or is*. The fact that most sentences follow this pattern tells us that sentences have a *naming part* and an *action part*.

SIMPLE SENTENCE PARTS

Objective 1. To write complete simple sentences.

A sentence is composed of parts arranged in a certain order. The name of a thing at the beginning of the sentence followed by what it *does*, *has*, or *is* indicates that a sentence has distinct parts.

→ *The parts of the sentence and their arrangement form the sentence structure.*

- Sentence with the fewest parts are simple sentences.
- Simple sentences have two main parts: *subject* and *predicate*.
- In simple sentences, the subject comes before the predicate.

→ Study the sentence frames below. What are the subject and predicate?

SIMPLE SENTENCE

The simple sentence has two main parts: *subject* and *predicate*. A simple sentence begins with a capital and ends with a punctuation mark. It must make sense.

SENTENCE
FRAME

Subject	Predicate	
---------	-----------	--

The name
of what or
who the
sentence
is about.

A word
that tells
what the
thing *does*,
has, or *is*.

EXAMPLES:

Subject	Predicate
The car	stopped.

Additional
information
expands the
meaning of the
sentence.

The car	stopped	at the curb.
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Word Types There are eight types. The special function or purpose of each word type is shown below. Sentence parts require different types of words. Where the word type is found in the sentence depends on its use as a sentence part.

- Two word types are used for the sentence subject: noun and pronoun.
- One word type is used for the sentence predicate: verb.

→ Complete the following definitions.






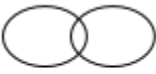


SUBJECT

A noun is _____

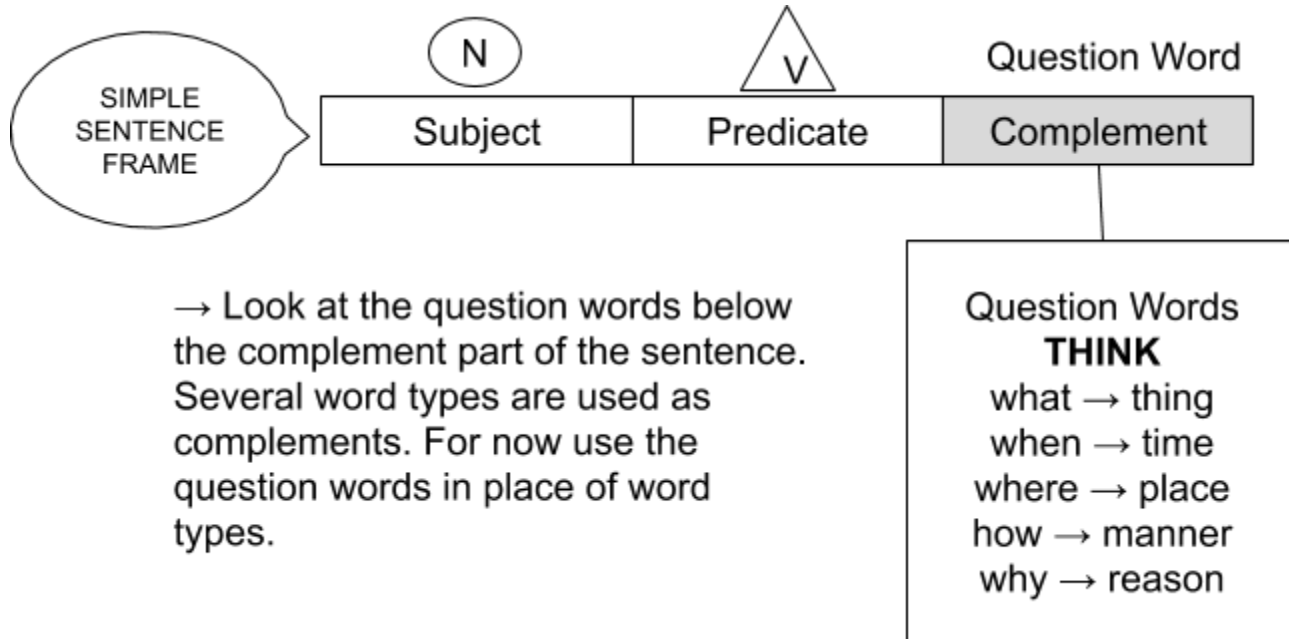
A pronoun takes _____



PREDICATE

A verb stands for _____

EIGHT TYPES OF WORDS				
Main words in Sentences	 NOUN The word is the name of a thing or group.	 VERB The word stands for an action or state of being.	 ADJECTIVE The word adds information about a noun. It tells <i>what kind, which one, how many</i> .	 ADVERB The word adds information about a verb. It tells <i>how, when, where, or how much</i> .
	 PRONOUN The word takes the place of a noun.	 CONJUNCTION The word joins or connects words, phrases or clauses.	 PREPOSITION The first word in a phrase. The phrase adds information about the noun or verb preceding it. It usually tells <i>when, how, where, or which one</i> .	 INTERJECTION The word shows strong feeling of emotion.

Complement. The subject and predicate are usually followed by another part: a complement. The word *complement* means completeness. The words in the complement expand the meaning of the sentence.



→ Draw the  signs and  for the word types above the subject and the question word above the complement. Write

1.

The rain	hit	the windows.
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2.

The storm	started	about midnight.
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3.

The wind	howled	around the house.
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4.

The rain	stopped	suddenly.
----------	---------	-----------

5.

The roof	leaked	from the storm.
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Question Word Technique. The question word technique, or the **QWT** technique, is used with the sentence complement. It has two purposes:

- to identify what the sentence tells about the subject, and
- to expand the meaning of the sentence.



The **QWT** technique has three steps --

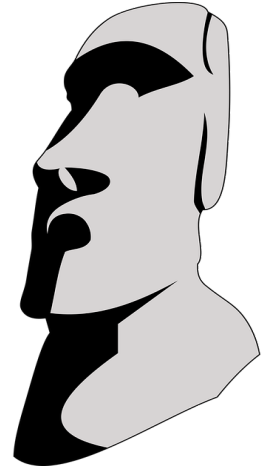
Step 1. Say the words for the subject and predicate followed by the five question words.

Step 2. Decide on which question word is answered by the words in complement.

Step 3. Write the question word above the complement.

Directions

1. Read the sentences in the frames.
2. Draw two lines to separate the three sentence parts.
3. Draw the signs  and  for the word types above the subject and predicate.
4. Write the question word above the complement. Use the **QWT** technique.



1.

Easter Island lies off South America.

2.

Six hundred statues watch over the island.

3.

The huge statues appeared before the 12th century.



4.

Polynesian clans carved the stone statues.

5.

The clans competed for the most monuments.

Review. What is the **QWT** technique?Directions

1. Read the sentences in the frames.
2. Draw two lines to separate the three sentence parts.
3. Draw the signs  and  for the word types above the subject and predicate.
4. Write the question word above the complement. Use the **QWT** technique.

1.

The conductor checked the tickets.

2.

The passengers waited patiently.

3.

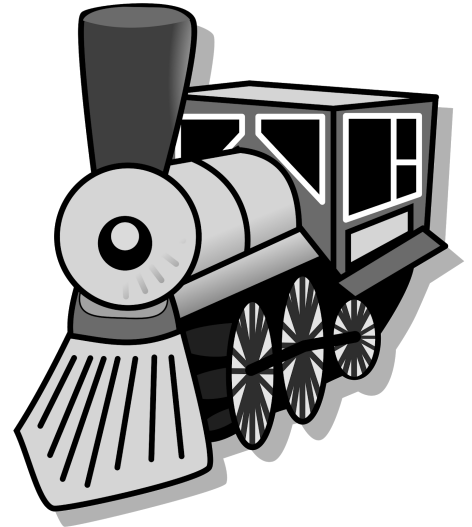
The Amtrak train stopped at the station.

4.

The train arrived at 2:10 p.m.

5.

The people rushed onto the train.



1.

Exercise burns calories

2.

Athletes run every day.

3.

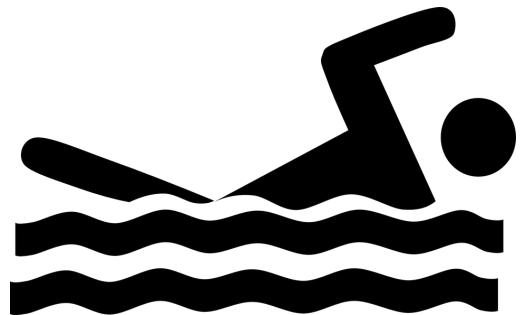
Most people walk around the neighborhood.

4.

Some people swim for good health.

5.

Rewards come slowly.



PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

A prepositional phrase is a group of words. The first word in the group is a preposition. The last word is a noun or pronoun.

EXAMPLES:

PP
The girl waited until midnight.

PP
The neighbors went to the zoo.

PREPOSITIONS

A preposition is the first word in a prepositional phrase. The prepositional phrase adds information about the verb or noun preceding it.

about	before	despite	of	to
above	behind	down	off	toward(s)
across	below	during	on	under
after	beneath	for	out	until
against	beside	from	over	up
along	besides	in	since	upon
among	between	into	through	with
around	beyond	like	throughout	within
at	by	near	till	without



→ Circle the prepositional phrase. Label it **PP**. Write the question word above the prepositional phrase. Use the **QWT** technique.

1. Easter Island lies off South America.
2. Six hundred statues watch over the island.
3. The huge statues appeared before the 12th century.
4. The clans competed for the most monuments.



1. The Amtrak train arrived at 2:10 p.m.
2. The conductor jumped onto the ground.
3. The people waited without complaint.

Review - A prepositional phrase begins with a _____ and ends with a _____ or _____.

Directions

1. Read the sentences in the frames.
2. Draw two lines to separate the three sentence parts.
3. Draw the signs  and  for the word types above the subject and predicate.
4. Circle each prepositional phrase. Most of the sentences have two phrases.
5. Write the question word above each prepositional phrase. Use the **QWT** technique.

EXAMPLE:

		<i>where</i>	<i>when</i>
The neighbors	went	to the zoo	after dinner.

1.

The boy washed at the sink before dinner.

2.

Water ran onto the floor.

3.

The faucets leaked from bad washers.

4.

Mother turned off the faucets without comment.

1.

Father searched for new washers in his toolbox.

2.

The family talks about the trouble without an argument.

3.

The solution results from honest communication.

4.

The family works on a goal.

5.

Each person thinks about the goal with a positive attitude.

SENTENCE STRATEGY

The simple sentence strategy is used to construct simple sentences. The word *construct* is a verb. It means to put information together on the *subject*.

The sentence strategy is how-to knowledge. It demonstrates how to use the sentence parts to write sentences. It also shows how-to change the parts into steps that you can follow to write and expand sentences.

SIMPLE
SENTENCE
STRATEGY

Subject	Predicate	Complement	Expand
Name the thing being described.	Name the action or being word.	Use the QWT technique or question words to complete the sentence.	If possible, use question words to add another word or group of words.

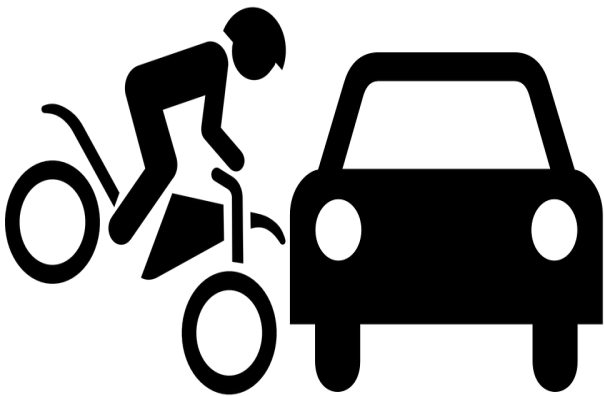
Word
Types



Nouns

Verb

Prepositional Phrases



→ Use the simple sentence strategy. Write one sentence about each picture.

SAMPLE SENTENCES:

1.

2.

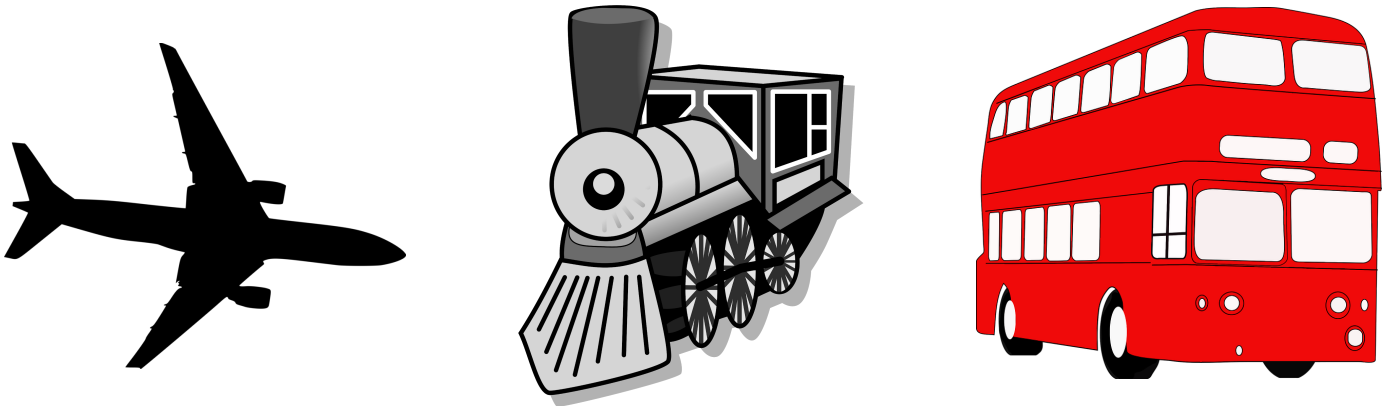
Simple Sentences. Task -- Write five simple sentences about a ride on a plane, train, or bus. Use the simple sentences strategy.

Directions:

1. Write five simple sentences. Use prepositional phrases.
2. Draw two lines to separate the three sentence parts: *subject*, *predicate*, and *complement*.
3. Circle each prepositional phrase.

IMAGINE: You are on a plane, train, or bus. What do you see? *Visualize* the conductor, fare, food, other people and the scenery.

Use *I*, the pronoun, if you are describing your own actions.



Riding on a _____

Task -- Write eight simple sentences on food shopping. Use the simple sentence strategy. Try to expand each sentence.

Directions

1. Write eight simple sentences. Use prepositional phrases.
2. Expand each sentence.
3. Draw two lines to separate the three sentence parts: *subject*, *predicate*, and *complement*.
4. Circle each prepositional phrase.



THINK. What do you usually buy at the food market?

Use the **QWT** technique to complete and expand the sentences.

Food Shopping

[illegible]

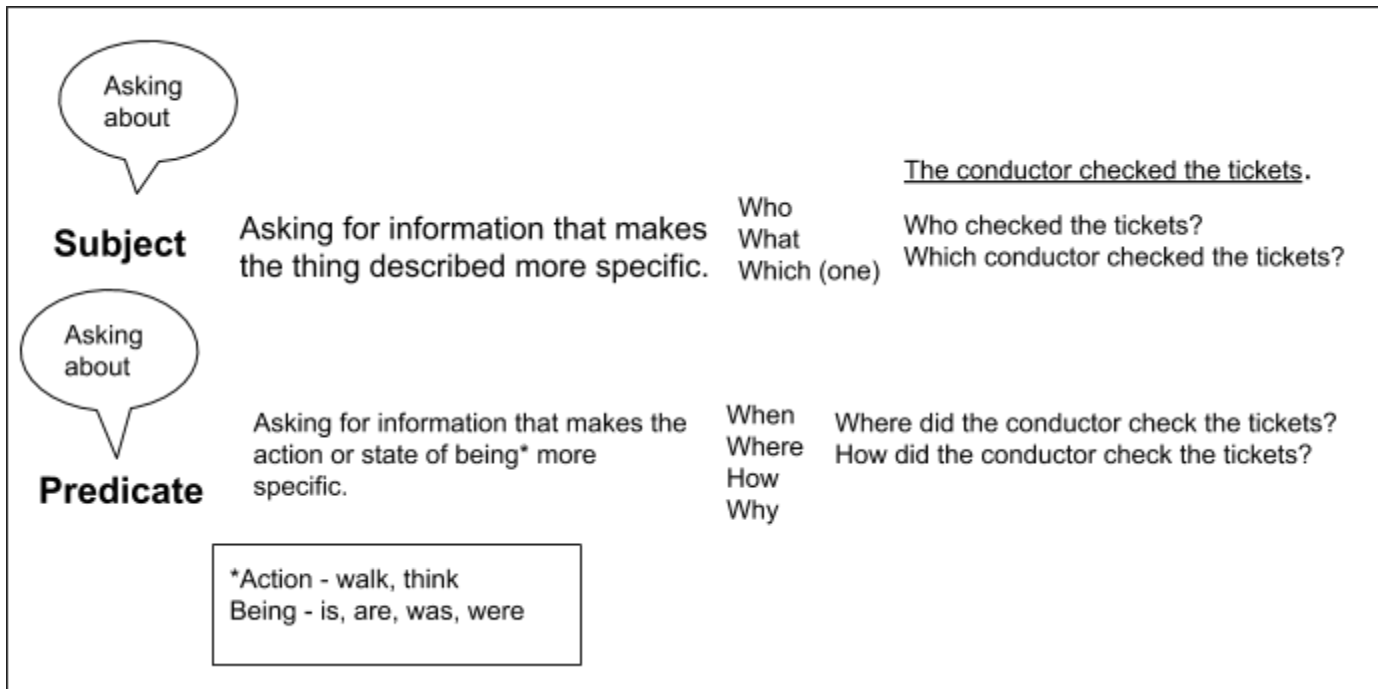
INFORMATION QUESTIONS

A sentence is an information question if it

- asks for more information than yes or no,
- begins with a question word.

The regular order of the parts of the simple sentence is *subject, predicate, complement*. Most information questions require a sentence transition. *Transition* means a change in the order of the sentence parts.

QUESTION WORDS CHART



→ Complete the information questions. Use the questions on the chart.

EXAMPLES. Who _____?
What _____?

Question Word	Helping Verb did (past) can (present) will (future)	Subject	Main Verb	Complement

Where _____?
How _____?

Review -- What are information questions?

Directions

1. Read the simple sentence.
2. Change the regular sentence into an information question.
3. Write the information question in the sentence frame.

The question word is written with the first part of the sentence.

1.

The neighbor complained about the crime.

WHO

2.

People stayed in their homes after dark.

WHAT

3.

The neighbors organized a citizen's patrol.

WHEN

4.

Crime decreased within a month.

WHY

5.

The neighbors held a block party.

WHICH

Select five simple sentences from pages 13-15. Write an information question for each sentence. Use different question words.

Directions

1. Read five simple sentences.
2. Change each sentence into an information question.
3. Write the question in the sentence frame.
4. Divide the frame into the sentence parts.

Remember: The question word is written with the first part of the sentence.

1.

	?
--	---

2.

	?
--	---

3.

	?
--	---

4.

	?
--	---

5.

	?
--	---

SELF CHECK

Talk through the questions.

1. What are the three parts of a simple sentence?
2. What is the order of sentence parts in a simple sentence?
3. What is the order of sentence parts in an information question?

Describe the steps for the

1. Simple Sentence Strategy
2. **QWT** technique (Question Word Technique)

→ Write simple sentences with the following sentence parts. Use the sentence strategy and the **QWT** technique.

- a. SUBJECT PREDICATE

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- b. SUBJECT PREDICATE COMPLEMENT - no prepositional phrase

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- c. SUBJECT PREDICATE COMPLEMENT - 1 prepositional phrase

--

- d. SUBJECT PREDICATE COMPLEMENT - 2 prepositional phrases

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Write the question word above the sentence complement. If the sentence has a prepositional phrase, write the question word for the phrase. Sentence (d) has two question words.

1. On the first line, write a simple sentence for each picture. Can you expand it?
2. . Change the simple sentence into an information question. Use different question words. Write that on the second line.



