

The K.I.S.S. Method of Identifying Parts of a Sentence

(“Keep It Simple, Student”)

Learn this step by step process and follow it whenever you are working with sentence structure exercises in GOAL English. You will discover that it makes figuring out the parts of a sentence correctly (*almost*) as easy as “1...2...3!”

We need to do “first things first”.

1. **Read the entire sentence carefully** to understand what it is saying.

Example: The fishing boat was tossed violently against the frightening wave during the raging storm.

2. **Identify the subject and verb AND SAY THEM TOGETHER.**
(Make sure they make sense and that you “hear” a connection between the two. If not, try again.) The subject will always be a noun or pronoun that names who or what the sentence is about. The verb is the “action” or energy that tells what the subject is doing, feeling, thinking, etc.

Example: The fishing ^s **boat** ^{verb} **was tossed** violently against.....storm.

3. **Label any other nouns.**

Example: The fishing ^s **boat** ^{verb} **was tossed** violently against the frightening ^{noun} **waves** during the raging ^{noun} **storm**.

The key “anchors” (subject, verb, and other nouns) in the sentence have now been identified (and labeled!)

4. **Look for any words that “describe” these anchors.** (These will be the adjectives and adverbs!)

Example: The ^{adj.} **fishing** ^{noun} **boat** ^{verb} **was tossed** ^{adv.} **violently** against the ^{adj.} **frightening** ^{noun} **waves** during the ^{adj.} **raging** ^{noun} **storm**.

Practice Identifying Parts of a Sentence*

* (Make sure you have received and studied “The K.I.S.S. Method of Identifying Sentence Parts” information sheet before doing these exercises.)

Directions: Read the sentences. Identify the subject (S) and verb (V) first. Then identify any other nouns (N). Now identify any adjectives (Adj) and adverbs (Adv) that describe the sentence parts you have already labeled.

Example: Adj S Adv V N Adj N
The curious dog eagerly put his paws around the new toy.

- 1) She reluctantly asked her present employer for a substantial raise.
- 2) We certainly knew the correct answers after long hours of studying for the exam.
- 3) The dark cloudy sky and extreme wind quickly turned into a very serious storm.
- 4) You really shouldn't have to wait for your next dental appointment.
- 5) Emily happily skipped into her beloved grandmother's open arms.
- 6) An education is a priceless gift and will really make a difference in getting a good job.
- 7) Spring has arrived, and green buds have newly appeared on the freshly planted trees and bushes.
- 8) The father and daughter abruptly stopped hunting and headed to their car at 6:00 p.m.

◆ Stop here and check your work.

- 9) Lee closed his science book after studying it for an hour and went sleepily to bed.
- 10) Please share your unique idea with the rest of the interested class.
- 11) Peter carefully followed the detailed recipe and made a delicious supper for his growing family.
- 12) It's a good idea to wear warm clothes during cold winter weather.
- 13) They knew that the apartment could be cleaned quickly in time for their guests.
- 14) Living a simple uncluttered life can truly help to reduce stress.
- 15) Amy woke early each morning to do her energetic workout.
- 16) We were quite embarrassed about the recent incident.

◆ Check your work.

Practice Identifying Parts of a Sentence - KEY

Example: Adj S Adv V N Adj N
The curious dog eagerly put his paws around the new toy.

- 1) She reluctantly asked her present employer for a substantial raise.
 S Adv V Adj N Adj N
- 2) We certainly knew the correct answers after long hours of studying for the exam.
 S Adv V Adj N Adj N N N
- 3) The dark cloudy sky and extreme wind quickly turned into a very serious storm.
 Adj Adj S Adj S Adv V Adv Adj N
- 4) You really shouldn't have to wait for your next dental appointment.
 S Adv V Adv V Adj Adj N
- 5) Emily happily skipped into her beloved grandmother's open arms.
 S Adv V Adj Adj Adj N
- 6) An education is a priceless gift and will really make a difference in getting a good job.
 S V Adj N V Adv V N N Adj N
- 7) Spring has arrived, and green buds have newly appeared on the freshly planted trees and bushes.
 S V V Adj N V Adv V Adv Adj N N
- 8) The father and daughter abruptly stopped hunting and headed to their car at 6:00 p.m.
 N N Adv V N V N N

◆ Stop here and check your work.

- 9) Lee closed his science book after studying it for an hour and went sleepily to bed.
 S V Adj N N N V Adv N
- (Understood S = you) V Adj N N Adj N
 10) Please share your unique idea with the rest of the interested class.
- 11) Peter carefully followed the detailed recipe and made a delicious supper for his growing family.
 S Adv V Adj N V Adj N Adj N
- (It = S, is = V) Adj N (infinitive) Adj N Adj Adj N
 12) It's a good idea to wear warm clothes during cold winter weather.
- 13) They knew the apartment could be cleaned quickly in time for their guests.
 S V N V V V Adv N N
- 14) Living a simple uncluttered life can truly help to reduce stress.
 S Adj Adj N V Adv V (infinitive) N
- 15) Amy woke early each morning to do her energetic workout.
 S V Adv Adj N (infinitive) Adj N
- 16) We were quite embarrassed about the recent incident. (LV = linking verb – Remember the “seem” test?)
 S LV Adv Adj Adj N