Grammar

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Simple Sentences**

***Simple sentences are independent clauses.***

***They contain a subject and a predicate.***

**Rule 1**: Simple sentences can be very **short**, consisting of only one word (a

noun) for the subject and one word (a verb) for the predicate. The noun is called

the **simple subject**, and the verb is the **simple predicate**.

John laughed.

**Rule 2**: Simple sentences can be **long**, although they still consist of one subject

(a noun and modifiers) and one predicate (a verb and other elements). The noun

is called the **simple subject**, and the verb is the **simple predicate**.

The tall, good-looking boy with the curly blond hair laughed uproariously at

his best friend’s suggestion.

***Exercise A.* Identify the subject and predicate in these simple sentences.**

**Circle the simple subject and underline the simple predicate.**

1. My best friend in the whole world is coming over to my house to visit me

this afternoon.

2. Three beautiful little kittens looked up at me from inside a box of old

clothes.

3. At the stroke of midnight, the carriage turned into a huge orange pumpkin.

4. A really friendly old man with long white whiskers lives in the apartment

above my aunt’s and uncle’s apartment.

5. Several of her favorite romantic love songs were playing on the radio that

afternoon in the park.

6. Cool, deep, dark blue water flowed through the rough limestone rocks in

the gorge.

7. One-hundred fifty-five dollars is certainly a lot of money for a young

person living with his or her parents.

8. The large red book sitting on the hall table was a dictionary published by

an encyclopedia company in the United States.

9. The three girls carried back packs filled with books, food, candy, clothes,

make-up, pens, paper, hairbrushes, and other assorted items.

10. I don’t remember the name of that tall, thin actor with the sparkling blue

eyes.

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**Rule 3**: Simple sentences can be **declarative** or **interrogative**.

You can shop at the mall on the weekend. (**declarative**)

Can you shop at the mall on the weekend? (**interrogative**)

***Exercise B*. Identify the subject and predicate in these simple sentences.**

**Circle the simple subject and underline the simple predicate.**

1. Who can tell me the answer to the question about the Civil War?

2. The boy in the third row explained the role of slavery in the Civil War.

3. Several of the students were thinking about the final examinations in the

history course.

4. Which of the following words in this list have been misspelled?

5. Did Mary have time to call her brother this morning?

6. One of her younger cousins is having a birthday next Saturday.

7. Will you share your lunch with the new girl in class?

8. On Fridays, we usually go to the movies in the afternoon with my little

nephew, Jerry.

9. Where in the world did your sister put her purse and car keys?

10. When are you planning to come home from summer camp?

Grammar

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**Simple Sentences**

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***Simple sentences are independent clauses.***

***They contain a subject and a predicate.***

**Rule 4**: Simple sentences can have a verb in any **tense** (past, present, future),

**mood** (indicative or imperative), or **voice** (active or passive).

My friend shops at the mall on the weekend. (**present**)

My friend shopped at the mall last weekend. (**past**)

My friend will shop at the mall next weekend. (**future**)

You shop at the mall every weekend. (**indicative**)

Shop at the mall this weekend! (**imperative**; subject is “you” understood)

The next player at bat hit the baseball into left field. (**active**)

The baseball was hit into left field by the next player at bat. (**passive**)

***Exercise C*. Identify the subject and predicate in these simple sentences.**

**Circle the simple subject and underline the simple predicate.**

1. Three years ago my baby sister was born on the first day of January.

2. Put your dirty clothes in the basket in the upstairs bathroom, please.

3. The older boys were given a chance to buy raffle tickets after the meeting.

4. Most of the time my classmates were wearing heavy clothes in the winter

months.

5. The shiny yellow toy was easily caught by the eager collie puppy.

6. Both of my brothers will be in Oregon next week for the festival.

7. Please don’t leave your wet raincoat lying on the dining room chair.

8. She had been wondering about that idea for quite a while now.

9. Her left arm was badly broken at the wrist during the automobile accident.

10. In 2010, the leaders of the nations of this planet will face many important

environmental problems.