

Exercises for Tutorial 0. Recognizing Verbs and Subjects

Exercise 1

Instructions: Find the verbs in the sentences below. Rewrite each sentence twice using the past (yesterday), and the future (tomorrow). Underline the verbs in your rewritten sentences. Some sentences may have more than one subject or more than one verb. All the verbs are in the present tense (today). *Type, write, or copy-paste each sentence into the two answer boxes. Change each sentence to future and past and underline the verb phrases. Make any needed corrections after the bracketed word(s) and use **bold** for the corrections.*

Example: (*Present/Today*) Michael loves pizza.

<i>Past</i> Yesterday	Michael <u>loved</u> pizza.
<i>Future</i> Tomorrow	Michael <u>will love</u> pizza.

1. Hannah's auto mechanic gives her an estimate for the cost of repairs to her VW.

<i>Past</i>	
<i>Future</i>	

2. Hannah stares at the total of the estimate for a full minute.

<i>Past</i>	
<i>Future</i>	

3. Hannah takes a deep breath and asks the mechanic to double-check his math.

<i>Past</i>	
<i>Future</i>	

4. The amount, \$1,346.00, seems high to Hannah.

<i>Past</i>	
<i>Future</i>	

5. Hannah knows her car is in need of major work, but this is shocking.

<i>Past</i>	
<i>Future</i>	

6. She does a little figuring; then she looks at the mechanic and tries not to weep.

<i>Past</i>	
<i>Future</i>	

7. Hannah drives a loaner car to work, parks it where none of her co-workers can see it, and plans to ask her boss for overtime.

<i>Past</i>	
<i>Future</i>	

Exercise 2

Instructions: Change the verbs in the following paragraph from present tense into past tense. Begin the first sentence with a term that indicates a time in the past such as **last year**. Then underline the verbs you have changed. *Type, write, or copy-paste the “start” and the paragraph into the answer box. Change each verb and make it **bold**.*

Hiking is my favorite thing to do. As the road beside my house turns and heads into the fields behind it, everything changes. The city sounds fade away and are soon replaced with birdsong and the rustle of wind in the trees. In the scrub and low branches off the path, reptiles and small animals dart and slither, and sometimes I see a deer running across a field in front of me. I am lucky to have such an adventure available to me every day.

Start: Last year, hiking

Exercise 3

Instructions: In the paragraph below, underline each of the verbs and change the **subjects to bold**. *Type, write, or copy-paste the paragraph into its answer box. Then underline and change to bold.*

Hiking is my favorite thing to do on weekends. As the road beside my house turns and heads into the fields behind it, everything changes. The city sounds fade away and are soon replaced with birdsong and the rustle of wind in the trees. In the scrub and low branches off the path, reptiles and small animals dart and slither, and sometimes I see a deer running across a field in front of me. I am lucky to have such an adventure available to me every day.

Exercise 4

Instructions: Delete all the prepositional phrases in the following sentences. Then locate the subjects and verbs. Underline the verb and change the **subject to bold**. *Type, write, or copy-paste each sentence into its answer box. Then make the changes.*

Example: The children in the sixth grade at her school are restless.

The **children** are restless.

1. The schools in this country will adjourn for the summer.

2. My son and his friends in the neighborhood are counting the days before summer vacation.

3. On the playground at school, groups of children gather, looking for trouble.

4. Every season, several students on the football team at my son's school are injured.

5. Some of them require the medical attention of a sports doctor.

6. This year one of the boys broke his arm in three places for the second time.

7. At my daughter's school, a child in her class required stitches from a collision during a game of tag.

8. The children in the school will be happy when summer finally arrives, but the teachers with so little free time during the semester will be even happier.

Exercise 5

Instructions: Delete all the prepositional phrases in the following sentences. Then locate the subjects and verbs. Underline the verb and change the **subject to bold**. *Type, write, or copy-paste each sentence into its answer box. Then make the changes.*

1. The dry brush on the hill exploded instantly into flames.

2. Surfing and rock climbing are great sports for both men and women.

3. Jobs in technology are becoming plentiful in many parts of the country.

4. The tadpoles in the pond lost their tails and grew legs.

5. My sister in Oregon was selling her house to her best friend.

6. The rain and the wind of winter demolished many houses on hillsides in the Berkeley hills.

7. Everyone will learn about the different skills required for college writing in this composition class.

Exercise 6

Instructions: In the passage, underline each of the verbs and change the **subjects to bold**. *Type, write, or copy-paste the paragraph into its answer box. Then underline and change to bold.*

Jamie and I wanted to go out and have fun for once, so last Friday we went into the city to see a play. Leaving Half Moon Bay, we talked excitedly about being out in the city at night with the bright lights and high energy. We were hoping for a night to remember, and we were not disappointed. Highway One was beautiful with the sun setting in the west and a glimpse of the Farrallon Islands; the traffic was very light for a Friday night. We found a parking place right behind Le Central, the restaurant where we had reservations. Hungry and thirsty, we enjoyed everything that we ordered, from the wine and appetizers to the after-dinner espresso. Wanting to be sure to make the first act of the play, we took our dessert to go. But one of the parking gods was with us, and we found parking for FREE near the theater. We easily found our seats and sat transfixed for two hours as the delightful play took us from laughing to crying and back again. Our exciting time in the city gave us a night that we will always remember.