

Parts of a Sentence

Every sentence contains a *subject* and a *verb*. Some sentences may also contain *complements*—direct objects, indirect objects, predicate nominatives, or predicate adjectives. Any of these sentence parts may be compound.

EXERCISE In each of the following sentences, underline the sentence part or parts given in parentheses.

Example 1. (*direct object*) Give your tickets to the person at that window.

1. (*direct object*) Have you ever visited a county fair?
2. (*compound subject*) Last year, my best friend and I attended a fair in our state capital.
3. (*predicate adjective*) The playful antics of the rodeo clowns were quite entertaining.
4. (*verb*) Then we wandered around the fairgrounds.
5. (*compound subject*) Animal pens and displays of food and crafts filled the large exhibit halls.
6. (*verb*) In one area sheep were lying about in small pens.
7. (*direct object*) A ranchhand noticed our interest in the sheep and spoke to us.
8. (*predicate nominative*) “These animals can be good pets,” said the ranchhand.
9. (*compound direct object*) Until then, I had considered only cats, dogs, or fish as pets.
10. (*indirect object*) The friendly ranchhand brought the sheep some food.
11. (*predicate adjective*) “By now these sheep are hungry.”
12. (*indirect object*) “Would you give them lunch?”
13. (*indirect object*) The ranchhand gave each of us a handful of food pellets.
14. (*compound verb*) The sheep, apparently ravenous, chewed the food quickly and looked for more.
15. (*direct object*) The sheep gave me a brilliant idea.
16. (*compound predicate adjective*) Yardwork certainly can become tiresome and dull.
17. (*direct object*) Sheep, however, happily eat grass.
18. (*predicate nominative*) In other words, a sheep is a natural lawn mower!
19. (*subject*) There was only one problem with this idea.
20. (*direct object*) The city has zoning laws against sheep ranching!