2

The Parts of a Sentence
Subject, Predicate, Complement

Diagnostic Preview

A. Identifying the Parts of a Sentence

In the following paragraphs, identify each of the numbered italicized words, using these abbreviations:

s.	subject	*p.a.*	predicate adjective
v.	verb	*d.o.*	direct object
p.n.	predicate nominative	*i.o.*	indirect object

EXAMPLE   Are you a mystery [1] *fan*?
            1. p.n.

Link to Literature

        Sir Arthur Conan Doyle certainly gave [1] *readers* a wonderful [2] *gift* when he [3] *created* the character of Sherlock Holmes. [4] *Holmes* is a [5] *master* of the science of deduction. He [6] *observes* seemingly insignificant [7] *clues,* applies logical reasoning, and reaches simple yet astounding conclusions. The Hound of the Baskervilles is an excellent [8] *example* of how Holmes solves a baffling [9] *mystery*. The [10] *residents* of a rural area are afraid of a supernatural dog that [11] *kills* people at night. Helpless against this beast, they seek the [12] *services* of Sherlock Holmes. Using logic, he solves the mystery and relieves the people's [13] *fear.* This story is [14] *one* of Conan Doyle's best because it is both [15] *eerie* and mystifying.

B. Identifying and Punctuating the Kinds of Sentences

Copy the last word of each of the following sentences. Then, punctuate each with the correct end mark. Classify each sentence as *imperative*, *declarative*, *interrogative*, or *exclamatory*.

EXAMPLE   1. Sherlock Holmes has many dedicated fans

            1. *fans. —declarative*

16. How clever Sherlock Holmes is
17. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote four novels and fifty-six short stories about Holmes
18. Have you read any of these stories
19. I particularly like the stories in which Holmes confronts the evil Professor Moriarty
20. Read just one of these stories, and see why millions of mystery fans love Sherlock Holmes

The Sentence

In casual conversation, people often leave out parts of sentences. In writing, however, it is better to use complete sentences most of the time. They help to make meaning clear to the reader.

2a. A *sentence* is a word or word group that contains a subject and a verb and that expresses a complete thought.

A *sentence fragment* is a word or word group that is capitalized and punctuated as a sentence but that does not contain both a subject and a verb or does not express a complete thought.

FRAGMENT   Was waiting by the door. [no subject]
 SENTENCE   The clerk was waiting by the door.

FRAGMENT   The room with the high ceiling. [no verb]
 SENTENCE   The room with the high ceiling glowed in the sunset.

FRAGMENT   After you have finished the test. [not a complete thought]
 SENTENCE   Exit quietly after you have finished the test.

Some sentences contain an understood subject (*you*).

EXAMPLES   [You] Stop!

            [You] Pass the asparagus, please.

Reference Note

For information on **how to correct sentence fragments,** see Chapter 18. For information on **punctuating sentences,** see page 311.

COMPUTER TIP

Many style-checking software programs can help you identify sentence fragments. If you have access to such a program, use it to help you evaluate your writing.

Reference Note

For more about **understood subjects,** see page 97.

SKILLS FOCUS

Identify and correct sentence fragments. Identify the subject of a sentence.