HELP SHEET

Finding Subjects, Verbs & Conjunctions

1. First: find the verb. This is the ACTION word. It is something that you can DO, mentally or physically. This includes forms of the verb ‘be’ (is, was, are, am, being) – existing is something you DO.

* Chris was hungry. The verb is ‘was’.
* Amy finally achieved her lifelong goal. The verb is ‘achieved’.
* A bunch of red roses will add colour and fragrance to the room. The verb is ‘add’.

1. Second: ask yourself ‘who or what is doing this verb’? This is the subject.

* Chris was hungry. Who was hungry? Chris. So Chris is the subject.
* Amy finally achieved her lifelong goal. Who achieved? Amy. So Amy is the subject.
* A bunch of red roses will add colour and fragrance to the room. Who adds? The roses. So the roses are the subject.

1. Third: find the conjunctions. You only need to do this for compound or complex sentences. Simple sentences will not have any. That’s how you know they’re simple.

Compound Sentences: have a coordinating conjunction. This is the word that links two complete thoughts together into one longer sentence. It always goes in the middle of the sentence, between the two clauses.

Remember the acronym: FANBOYS – For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So

Complex Sentences: have a subordinating conjunction. This is the word that makes one of the clauses unfinished, or ‘dependent’ on the other. It can go at the START of the sentence, before one of the clauses, or in the MIDDLE between the clauses.

Remember the acronym: I SAW A WABUB – If, Since, As, While, After, Whereas,

Although, Before, Until, Because.

NOTE: In compound or complex sentences, there should be two clauses, which means there will be TWO subjects and TWO verbs. Try and find/underline both.

* Chris was hungry, but Adam ate all the pizza.
* Amy finally achieved her lifelong goal because she worked hard.
* A bunch of red roses will add colour and fragrance to the room, but many people are allergic to pollen.