

HELP SHEET

Finding Subjects, Verbs & Conjunctions

- 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' – 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'.
- Second:** ask yourself 'who or what is doing this verb'? This is the **subject**.
 - Chris **was** hungry. Who was? Chris. Chris is the subject.
 - Amy finally **achieved** her lifelong goal. Who achieved? Amy. Amy is the subject.
 - A bunch of red **roses** will **add** colour and fragrance to the room. Who adds? The roses. The roses are the subject.
- 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.

Remember the acronym: FANBOYS – **F**or, **A**nd, **N**or, **B**ut, **O**r, **Y**et, **S**o

Complex Sentences: have a **subordinating conjunction**. This is the word that links the dependent (unfinished) thought to the independent (complete) thought.

Remember the acronym: I SAW A WABUB – **I**f, **S**ince, **W**hile, **A**fter, **W**hereas, **A**lthough, **B**efore, **U**ntil, **B**ecause.

In compound or complex sentences, there may be multiple subjects and verbs.

- 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.

BONUS CHALLENGE!

'A bunch of red roses' is the **COMPLETE** subject.

'Roses' is the **SIMPLE** subject.

'A bunch' and 'red' give more information about the roses – how many, what colour.

Try to only underline the **SIMPLE** subject in your sentences. But if you can't tell, it's fine to underline the complete subject.