

ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUPPORT

SESSION 1 (SELF-STUDY) – SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

OVERVIEW

This worksheet will help you:

- revise the basic sentence structure in English
- practise identifying the subject and verb of a sentence

INTRODUCTION

1. Read the sentences below and decide which one is grammatically correct. Can you identify and correct the mistakes for the other three sentences?

- a. The education system in Britain has changed many times in the last hundred years.
- b. Education, ^{is} one of the biggest issues in British society for a very long time.
- c. The system for the funding of higher education, which ~~has~~ ^{is} changed several times over the past few decades, ~~are~~ ^{is} a major issue in the UK, ~~affecting~~ ^{and} a great many families.
- d. Students applying for university place have to complete the application process, which include a personal statement.
^{includes}

RULES

Sentence structure in English:

Subject	+	verb (+ object)
<i>The university</i>	<i>is</i>	<i>very popular.</i>
<i>The university, which has 600 undergraduate and 300 postgraduate students,</i>	<i>has</i>	<i>a high reputation for its research.</i>
<i>The department</i>	<i>underwent</i> <i>依照</i>	<i>reforms which, although they took a while to take effect, proved successful.</i>

Subject verb object

PRACTICE

2. Identify the subject, main verb and object in each of the sentences below.

a. There are two kinds of research: research and development, and basic research.

b. The purpose of research and development is to invent a product for sale.

c. Edison invented the first commercially successful light bulb, but he did not invent the underlying science that made the light bulb possible.

d. Edison at least understood the science, though, which was the primary difference between inventing the light bulb and inventing fire.

e. Basic research is something else - ostensibly the search for knowledge for its own sake.

f. Basic research provides the scientific knowledge upon which R&D is later based.

g. Sending telescopes into orbit or building superconducting supercolliders is basic research.

h. There is no way, for example, that the \$1.5 billion Hubble space telescope is going to lead directly to a new car or computer or method of solid waste disposal.

i. That is not what it is for.

j. If a product ever results from basic research, it usually does so fifteen to twenty years later, following a later period of research and development.

Academic reading advice

Identifying the subject and verb in a sentence, particularly in a long complex one, can help you understand the ideas better.



3. Decide whether the underlined verbs in the sentences below are correct or not.

a. Nearly all companies do research and development, but only a few does basic research.

?
+ do

b. The companies that can afford to do basic research (and cannot afford not to) are ones that dominates their markets.

c. Most basic research in industry are done by companies that have at least a 50 percent market share.

is

d. They have both the greatest resources to spare for this type of activity and the most to lose if, by choosing not to do basic research, they eventually loses their technical advantage over competitors.

e. Such companies typically devotes about 1 percent of sales each year to research intended not to develop specific products but to ensure that the company remaina dominant player in its industry twenty years from now.

f. It is cheap insurance, since failing to do basic research guarantees that the next major advance will be owned by someone else.

FURTHER PRACTICE

4. Complete the sentences below.

- a. One of the main issues is workers many injury during the construction period.

- b. Most people working in the industry have employment injury insurances.

- c. A very good example of this insurance is little Wang got 50000 CNY after lost his arm in our industry.

- d. A number of students are rapt in overwatch.

Academic writing advice

If your sentence structure is incorrect, your reader will find it difficult to understand your ideas.



Sources:

Exercises 1 and 5 are based on Harrison, M., Jakeman, V. & Paterson, K. (2012) *Palgrave Skill: Improve Your Grammar*. New York; Macmillan. (p.5-7)

Exercises 2 – 3 are based on Cringely, R. (1996) *Accidental Empires*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers. (p.79) as found on <http://www.uefap.com/reading/exercise/texts/rersearch.htm>

HOMEWORK

7. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate form of one of the verbs in the matching box. Some verbs will need the passive voice, but for some verbs you will need to use the active voice.

Bolts

allow (x3)	have (x3)	run	screw on	screw onto	show	use
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The photo below shows a common fastener (or fixing): a bolt, with a nut. Bolts have threads - grooves on the outside of the bolt's shaft (or shank) which run around the shaft in a helical pattern. The threaded shaft allows a nut, which has a thread inside it, to screw onto the bolt (by a turning motion). Nuts usually have a right-hand thread - they screw on by turning them clockwise (in the direction of clock hands) and unscrewed by turning them anticlockwise. However, in some situations, left-hand threads are used.



Most bolts have heads with hexagonal perimeters (hexagonal heads or hex heads). These allow a spanner to turn them. Heads can also have a hexagonal hole in their top, called a socket head. This allows a hex key (or Allen key) to fit into them.

Preload in bolted joints

apply (x4)	call (x2)	can adjust	can cause	can tighten
grip				

Turning force, called torque, is applied to bolts to tighten them - that is, to make them tighten tightly. As a bolt is tightened, tension (stretching force) in its shaft increases, and the components being bolted together are pressed tightly together. This pressing force is called preload (or clamp load). If enough preload is applied, friction between the components will prevent them sliding in different directions. This is an advantage, as sliding subjects the sides of bolts to shear force (scissoring force), which can cause them to break. In steel structures, bolts that are used high preloads to prevent sliding are called high strength friction grip (HSFG) bolts.

The amount of torque applied to bolts can be adjusted using a torque wrench, a tool which can tighten and loosen bolts, and which is used to measure how much torque is applied. This helps to ensure that bolts are tightened enough, but not over-tightened. Torque wrenches are also useful for checking that bolted joints do not work loose - that is, that they do not become loose over time.

Washers

design	fit	have	intend	tighten (x2)	use
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Washers are metal discs which are used between the head of a bolt or a nut and the components being bolted together. Ordinary washers - called flat washers or plain washers - have a larger flat diameter than the bolt head or nut. Their wider area is used to spread the load (distribute pressure) over the surface of the component as the bolt is tightened. Spring washers are designed to be compressed, to allow the amount of preload to be adjusted using a bolt is tightened. In some situations, spring washers are used to allow a bolt to move slightly, in order to absorb shocks. Common types of spring washer are helical spring washers and conical spring washers.

