| **METU/SFL**  **DBE**  **HO 2** | **PRE-INTERMEDIATE GROUP**  **(Student’s Copy)** | **Fall 2021** |
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| **THE SENTENCE** |
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A sentence is a group of words that expresses a “complete thought,” and it almost always includes a SUBJECT and a VERB.

**SIMPLE SENTENCES**

A simple sentence has one subject + verb combination. The subject tells who or what is responsible for an action. The verb usually expresses the action (jump, work, think) of the sentence or a condition (is, was, seem, become).

*Examples:*

\* Good students study hard.

subject verb

\* Frank and Joe are very successful architects.

subject verb

\* Action films entertain and thrill audiences everywhere.

subject verb verb

\* In “My world, our world” project, people take a photograph of a favourite place and share it on the website. subject verb verb

There are different kinds of sentences. Some sentences are statements, while others are questions. Sentences need capital letters and punctuation.

You should capitalize:

* the first word of a sentence
* the first-person singular pronoun (**I**)
* proper nouns (specific people, places, and organizations) (**K**ate, **L**ondon, **B**ritish **C**ouncil, etc.)
* nationalities, languages, and religions (**E**nglish, **S**panish, **I**slam)
* days of the week and months of the year (**F**riday, **S**eptember, etc.)

You should end a sentence with one of the following:

* a period/ full stop (.) (Currently, the beach is getting busy**.**)
* a question mark (?) (What percentage of the Internet is in English**?**)
* an exclamation mark (!) (Great**!**)

**COMMON MISTAKES WHEN FORMING SENTENCES**

| **a. Subject-Verb Agreement** |
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When writing a sentence, you should make sure that if the subject of the sentence is singular, it must be followed by a singular verb. Similarly, a plural subject must be followed by a plural verb. Study the underlined head nouns in the examples below.

*Examples:*

\* **One** of John's brothers **lives** in Boston. *(singular subject - singular verb)*

\* **A number of students** **are** absent today. *(plural subject - plural verb)*

\* **The number** of employees in my company **is** approximately ten thousand. *(singular subject –*

*singular verb)*

*\** **Learning** about a new culture **is** exciting. *(singular subject - singular verb)*

**Subject-verb agreement is sometimes confusing in these situations:** http://www.prsproof.net/resources/Exclamation%20Mark%20Red.jpg?timestamp=1292810949644

| 1. In sentences with *there + the verb BE*, pay attention to the first item.  * There **is** a library in the city centre. * There **are** good restaurants in my hometown. * There **is** a bookstore and good restaurants in my hometown. * There **are** beautiful parks and a lake in my hometown. |
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| 1. If there is a prepositional phrase between a subject and its verb, the verb should be singular or plural according to the head noun.  * The price of NBA tickets is high. (The subject is *price*, not *NBA tickets*.)   head noun   * The fans at an NBA game are noisy. (The subject is *fans,* not *game)*.   head nounhttp://eslvietnamzone.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/two_parts_subject_subject_verb_agreement.jpg |
| 3. Some nouns which have two parts require plural verbs.   * Those scissors are not sharp enough. * These trousers look fashionable. |
| 4. Some words with -s ending look like plurals but require singular verbs.   * Physics is my favourite subject at school. * The news is on CNN at 6 o’clock. |

**TASK 1.** **Underline the subject and the correct verb.**

1. The professor and the student agrees / agree on that point.
2. Making cakes is / are Mrs. Reed's specialty.
3. Getting to know students from all over the world is / are one of the best parts of my job.
4. Why was / were Susan and Alex late for the meeting?
5. A number of factors needs / need to be considered.
6. Is / Are having the responsibility for taking care of pets good for your children?
7. One of the chief materials in bones and teeth is / are calcium.
8. The number of votes was / were twenty.

| **b. Fragments** |
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Fragment means incomplete. If a group of words do not have a subject or a verb, it is a fragment, not a sentence.

*Examples:*

\* Competitors in the Argungu Fishing Festival only using traditional fishing equipment. (**Fr.**)

Competitors in the Argungu Fishing Festival only **use** traditional fishing equipment. ☺

Sometimes writers may forget to write one part of a sentence. This also creates a fragment.

*Examples:*

**\* Because** it keeps them warm. (**Fr.**)

In Siberia, people wear fur because it keeps them warm. ☺

**\* When** they go on holiday. (**Fr.**)

When they go on holiday, adventurous people do a range of activities. ☺

**\* After** the lesson finishes. (**Fr.**)

After the lesson finishes, we usually go out for lunch. ☺

**TASK 2.** **Correct the incomplete sentences, and write them in the blanks.**

1. In Kenya, wild animals and interesting scenery.

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1. The decrease in poverty a direct result of industrialization.

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1. Cities a universal symbol of civilization.

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1. Birdman the best movie that I saw last year.

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1. Attending classes in the evening tiring.

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| **c. Run-on Sentences** |
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When we join sentences together, it is important to use the *correct punctuation* or a *linking word*. Sentences that run together without these are called **run-on sentences**. In order to avoid run-on sentences, use either the correct punctuation, a coordinating conjunction (*and, but, or, so*), or a transition (*however, therefore, moreover, etc.*).

*Examples:*

\* My uncle is losing money on his business he refuses to sell it. (**X)**

\* My uncle is losing money on his business**,** he refuses to sell it. (**X)**

\* My uncle is losing money on his business**. He** refuses to sell it. (✔)

\* My uncle is losing money on his business**, but** he refuses to sell it. (✔)

\* My uncle is losing money on his business**; however,** he refuses to sell it. (✔)

| **d. Unparallel Structures** |
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When you are listing items or ideas,each item in your sentence should have the same *grammatical pattern.* This is called **parallelism**. It is an important element in writing, especially when you are listing items or ideas. If, for example, you are writing a list, and the first item in your list is a *noun*, you have to write the following items as *nouns*.

**Notice how the rule of parallelism is followed in the second sentence in each of the following sets:**

* *Not parallel* My English conversation class is made up of Mexicans, Italians, andsome are from Germany.

*Parallel* My English conversation class is made up of **Mexicans**, **Italians**, and **Germans**.(three nouns)

* *Not parallel* Successful students attend lessons regularly, they do their homework, and practice speaking English.

*Parallel* Successful students **attend** lessons regularly, **do** their homework, and **practice** speaking English. (three verbs)

* *Not parallel* Which outdoor sports do people like watching ortotake part in?

*Parallel* Which outdoor sports do people like **watching** or **taking part in**? (gerunds)

* *Not parallel* My parents were successful people but unhappy.

*Parallel* My parents were **successful** but **unhappy (people)**. (two adjectives)

**TASK 3.** **Connect the sentences so that the structures in each sentence are parallel. There is more than one way to connect some of these sentences.**

**e.g.** Julie is a good singer and dances beautifully.

*Julie is a good singer and a beautiful dancer.* OR *Julie sings well and dances beautifully.*

1. To swim and doing yoga are good for health.

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1. She loves mountain biking and ride a horse.

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1. He wants to be an academician, an interpreter, or teach English.

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1. The students tried to finish their assignment in a quick way and accurately.

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**TASK4.** **Some of the sentences below are incorrect. Write:**

| **\* (Cap.) if there is a capitalization mistake. \* (RO) if it is a run-on sentence.**  **\* (P) if there is a punctuation mistake. \* (//) if there is no parallelism.**  **\* (Fr.) if there is a fragment.**  **\* (S/V) if there is subject-verb disagreement.** |
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**Then write the correct forms in the spaces below. Put a check (✔) if the sentences are correct.**

**\_\_\_\_** 1. Last night, after I finished my homework.

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**\_\_\_\_** 2. One of the most famous entrepreneurs in the united states is mark zuckerberg.

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\_\_\_\_ 3. She is determined and works hard.

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**\_\_\_\_** 4. My roommate wants to win the Tour de France someday he spends hours riding his bicycle.

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**\_\_\_\_** 5. Wait until you hear the bell

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**\_\_\_\_** 6. English is not my native language.

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**\_\_\_\_**7. Some people prefer to work in an office, others prefer to work outdoors.

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**\_\_\_\_** 8. Ahigh fever and an upset stomach is symptoms of the disease.

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**\_\_\_\_** 9. Traveling to a country and to meet new people can be a wonderful experience.

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