

Skill Builder 6: Basic Grammar

Part 1 Parts of Speech: pronouns

Instructions: Underline the pronouns (and pronoun/adjectives) in the following sentences:

1. The Tigers stood unhappily in front of their dugout while the victorious Jaguars tossed their hats in the air.
2. Nothing fascinated the toddler like something that was not his.
3. We understood that we were expected to submit our dissertations in triplicate.
4. The trick-or-treaters helped themselves to their neighbours' candy.
5. She found herself peering into the mouth of a creepy cave.

Part 2 Parts of sentences: subjects

Instructions: In the following sentences, underline the complete subject and write SS above the simple subject(s). If the subject is an understood you, insert you in parentheses.

1. The (size(SS)) of the new building caused uproar in the town.
2. Eat heartily. You(SS) need your strength.
3. In the opinion of the court, siblings(SS) must be kept together.
4. All of the (books(SS)) in the old library smelled like mothballs.
5. There(SS) were no tour buses at the customs booth.

Part 3. Parts of sentences: subject complements and direct objects

Instructions: Label the subject complements and direct objects, using the labels SC and DO. If a subject complement or direct object consists of more than one word, bracket and label all of it.

1. Solar flares emit (UV radiation(DO)).
2. The friends' quarrel was (damaging their relationship(SC)).
3. Feng shui is (the practice of achieving harmony between the physical and the spiritual in one's environment(SC)).
4. A well-made advertisement captures (viewers' attention(DO)).
5. The island's climate was (neither too hot nor too rainy(SC)).

Part 4. Parts of sentences: objects and complements

Instructions: Each of the following sentences has either an indirect object followed by a direct object or a direct object followed by an object complement. Label the objects and complements, using the labels IO, DO, and OC. If an object or a complement consists of more than one word, bracket and label all of it.

1. Send the registrar(IO) your (scholarship form(DO)) today.
2. The independent research institute gives its scholars the freedom(DO) (to work without government or military interference(OC)).
3. Computer viruses make networks(DO) vulnerable(OC).
4. Give me(IO) a book's title(DO), and I can tell you (the author(OC)).
5. The dire forecast made us(DO) (extremely cautious about riding out the storm at home(OC)).

Part 5. Sentence types

Instructions: Identify the following sentences as simple, compound, complex, or compound-complex. Identify and underline the subordinate clauses.

1. The fact is that the network outage could have been avoided.(Complex)
2. Those who lose a loved one in a tragic accident may find group therapy comforting.(Complex)
3. The outlets in the fashion district are the best places to find Halloween costumes.(Simple)
4. There were six lunar Apollo missions, but people usually remember Apollo 13 best.(Compound)
5. Our generator kicks in whenever we lose power.(Simple)