

MEETING 3

PARTS OF A SENTENCE

A. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To explain the parts of a sentence
2. To explain the agreement of subject and verb

B. THE AIMS OF THE TOPIC

1. Students are expected to understand parts of sentence
2. Students are expected to understand how subjects agree their verbs.

C. GUIDANCE AND METHODS OF LEARNING

1. Lectures
2. Discussions
3. Presentations
4. Practices

D. MATERIAL DESCRIPTION

I. INTRODUCTION:

PHILLIS WHEATLEY

Phillis Wheatley was kidnapped from Africa at the age of eight. She was brought to Boston in 1761, a sickly child only able to speak Senegalese. At the age of thirteen she wrote her first poem. In 1773 her first book of poems was published, the second volume of poetry published by a woman in America.

At the Boston slave market, Phillis was purchased by John Wheatley, a tailor whose wife, impressed by the child's aptitude, taught her to speak, read, and write in English. In a few years Phillis had also learned geography, history, and Latin and had developed a liking for classical poets such as Horace and Virgil. Her first poem, a translation from the Lation of Ovid, so amazed the literary circles in Boston that they had it published. In 1768 she wrote "To the King's Most Excellent Healt", and in 1772 she composed a poem to her mistress, who was so moved that she freed Phillis and sent her to England to regain her health.

With the London publication of her book, *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*, her fame spread on both sides of the Atlantic, and she became a celebrity.

Exercise 1:

The various parts that make up a sentence are tested on the TOEFL Test. Underline the subject and circle the verb in the following sentences.

1. At the Boston slave market, Phillis was purchased by John Wheatley.
2. In a few years, Phillis had learned geography, history, and Latin.
3. Her mistress, Mrs. Wheatley, was impressed by the child's aptitude.
4. At the age of thirteen, she wrote her first poem.
5. In 1773 her first book of poems was published.
6. With the London publication of her book, her fame spread on both sides of the Atlantic.

Exercise 2: In some sentences the verb agrees with the subject; in some sentences the verb does not agree with the subject. Write Correct or Incorrect!

1. Phillis Wheatley was kidnapped from Africa.
2. History, geography, and Latin was the subjects she learned.
3. Classical poets such as Horace and Virgil were Phillis's favorites.
4. Phillis was purchased by Mr. Wheatley, whose wife were impressed by her and taught her to speak English.
5. The literary circles in Boston were impressed by her poem.
6. On both sides of the Atlantic her poetry was famous.

II. GRAMMAR: PARTS OF A SENTENCE

The clause has a subject and a verb. It can stand independently or alone

1. A simple sentence contains a single clause.

She	wrote	a book
<i>subject</i>	<i>verb</i>	<i>object</i>

2. A compound sentence contains two independent clauses joined by a conjunction (such as *and* or *but*).

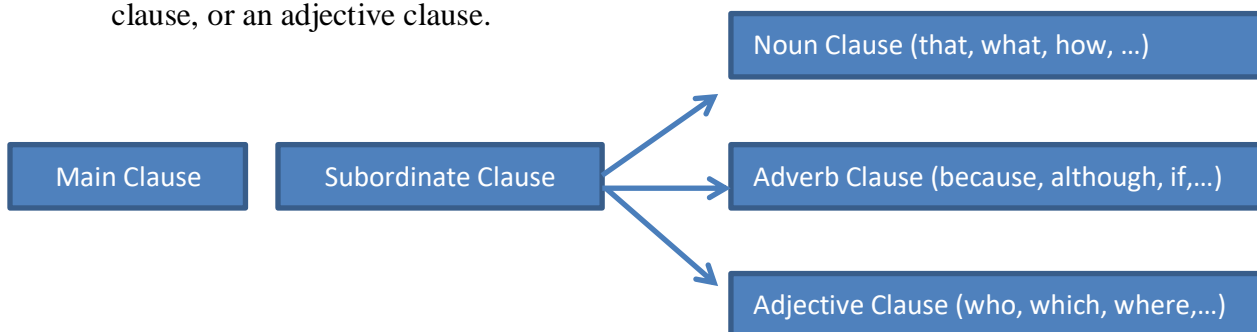
At age thirteen she wrote her first poem *and* in 1773 she wrote her first book.

Independent clause

conj

independent clause

3. A complex sentence contains an independent (main) clause and a dependent (subordinate) clause. The subordinate clause may be a noun clause, and adverb clause, or an adjective clause.



Her mistress realized that Phillis was talented.

Adjective clause

She wrote a poem for her mistress, who was very impressed.

Adjective clause

She went to England because she had health problem.

Adverb clause

1. Subject and Verb

A clause has a subject and a verb. Some verbs (action verbs) take an object.

She wrote a book.

S V O.

The verb

The verb may be a single word (*wrote* in the previous example) or a verb phrase with one or more auxiliary verbs and a main verb (*would have written*). The verb may be in active form (*wrote*) or passive form (*was written*). See the next chapter on verbs.

The subject

A subject may consist of one or more nouns or a phrase:

Noun : ***Phillis*** wrote her first poem at the age of thirteen.

Phrase : ***The first black woman poet in America*** produced her first book in 1773.

The subject may take various form:

1. A noun: ***The woman*** wrote a book.
2. A pronoun: ***She*** wrote a book.
3. A clause: ***What she wrote*** amazed everyone.
4. A gerund: ***Writing*** was her talent.
5. A gerund phrase: ***Writing poetry*** was her talent.
6. An infinitive: ***To write*** requires special talent.
7. An infinitive phrase: ***To write poetry*** in Latin requires special talent.

STRATEGY

There is only one subject in a clause. Be aware that on the test, the subject may be repeated. This is an error.

Correct : *Phillis Wheatley wrote poetry books.*

Incorrect : *Phillis Wheatley she wrote poetry books.*

2. Subject and Verb Agreement

The subject and verb must agree in person and number.

STRATEGY

Subject and verb agreement often presents difficulty to some learners of English since there are some subjects that take singular and others that take plural verbs.

Subjects Taking a Singular Verb

- a. Subjects with the following prepositional phrases take a singular verb:

As well as	together with
Along with	in addition to
Accompanied by	among

Among her works is To the King's Most Excellent Health.

- b. When the words below are used as subjects they have a singular verb:

One	any + singular noun	some + singular noun	every
Nobody	anybody	somebody	everybody
No one	anyone	someone	everyone
Nothing	anything	something	everything
Each	either	neither	

Everyone was amazed by her poems.

- c. When *it* introduces a sentence, *it* takes a singular verb.

It was her poems that amazed everyone.

Subjects Taking a Plural Verb

- a. When subjects are joined by and or both ... and, the verb is plural.
Both her mother and father were proud.
- b. The words are several, both, many, and few always take a singular verb.
Many were amazed by her talent.

Subjects Taking Either a Singular or a Plural Verb

- a. *A **number** takes* a plural verb, but ***the number of** takes* a singular verb.

A number of people were at the reading.

The number of people at the banquet was amazing.

- b. The words below take a singular or plural verb depending on the noun that follows them:

None	no	all	some
Most	half	any	majority

*All of her **poems** were good.*

*All of her **works** was so good.*

- c. When the subjects are joined by *either.....or*, *neither..... nor*, or *not only.....but also*, the verb is singular or plural depending on the subject near to it.

*Not only her master but also **her mistress** was proud of her.*

*Not only her mistress but also the literary **circles** were amazed by her talent.*

Exercise 3:

Choose the option a, b, c, or d that best completes the sentence

1. During the war wrote a poem for General Washington, who complimented her on her “style and manner”.
 - a. Phillis Wheatley was
 - b. it was Phillis Wheatley
 - c. Phillis Wheatley
 - d. Phillis Wheatly she

2.was initially by horse or foot in the colonial period.
 - a. It was land travel
 - b. Land travel
 - c. That land travel
 - d. Because land travel
3. In 1736, the number of poor people in Boston receiving public assistance.....
about 4,000.
 - a. Was
 - b. were
 - c. it was
 - d. they were
4., Jupiter Hannon, was the first American black to publish his own verse.
 - a. He was a poet and Baptist preacher of Long Island
 - b. The poet and Baptist preacher of Long Island
 - c. The poet and Baptist preacher of Long Island he was
 - d. The poet and he was a Baptist preacher of Long Island
5. Outstanding for his talent as an essayist, inventor, mathematician, and astrologer in
the 1770s....., who also publish a popular almanac.
 - a. were Benjamin Banneker
 - b. it was Benjamin Banneker
 - c. was Benjamin Banneker
 - d. Benjamin Banneker
6. During the 18th century, communication within and between cities.....at first.
 - a. were difficult
 - b. they were difficult
 - c. difficult
 - d. was difficult

3. *It* and *There*

STRATEGY

Some sentences or clauses begin with *it* or *there*. Be aware of the constructions that follow these subjects. In the structure section parts of a sentence including *it* and *there* may be omitted.

A sentence or clause may begin with the words *it* or *there*.

It is used in three ways:

1. *It* is used as subject followed by the **verb to be**:

It was in 1761 that she came to Boston. (It + to be + that...)

2. *It* is used as subject when the information is related to **an adjective**:

It was important to be free. (It + to be + adjective + infinitive)

3. *It* is used as a subject when it is used with **a time phrase**

It took her a few years to learn English. (It + take + time phrase + infinitive)

There shows that something or someone exists at a special time or place. In this use, the word *there* follows this construction

there + to be + subject

There are many books about Phillis Wheatley today.

There were not many famous women poets in 1770s.

Exercise 4: Circle the letter of the word that best complete the sentence.

1.not a single hard-surfaced road during the entire colonial period aside from the city.

- a. It was
 - b. There was
 - c. It
 - d. There were
2.in 1776 that Declaration of Independence was signed.
- a. It was
 - b. There was
- c. There
 - d. It
3.more than 300,000 people in Philadelphia by the end of the colonial period, making it the largest city in the colonies.
- a. There was
 - b. It was
- c. They were
 - d. There were
4. In the 18th century, not many women who had access to formal education in the colonies.
- a. there were
 - b. it was
- c. were
 - d. were there
5. After the Revolution, although some advances were made in education,a slow process.
- a. they were
 - b. it
- c. it was
 - d. there was

III. On the TOEFL Test

Parts of a sentence are tested in the Structure section, where any part of the sentence may be missing. The subject, the verb, or both may be missing.

Ex:

1. Postal service.....almost nonexistent in the colonies
- a. That was b. was c. it was d. being

➔ The best answer is (b); (a) is incorrect because *that* is needed only to connect a relative clause to an independent clause, and in this case there is only one

clause. (c) is incorrect because it repeats the subject. (d) is incorrect because the *-ing* form cannot be the main verb of a clause.

2.twenty-two colonial newspaper by 1775.

- a. About b. about were c. were about d. there were about

➔ The correct answer is (d); (a) is incorrect because it lacks a verb. (b) is incorrect because there is no subject. (c) is incorrect because it has the wrong word order.

IV. EXERCISES ON PARTS OF SENTENCE

Directions: From the four answer a, b, c, and d, choose the one that best completes the sentence!

1.in fluorescent lamps, television tubes, and other devices.
a. Phosphors are used c. To use phosphors
b. It is phosphor d. Using phosphors
2. The tips of some undersea mountainsislands in the middle of the ocean.
a. to form b. they form c. form d. forming
3.of fish; jawless fish, cartilaginous fish, and bony fish.
a. It is three types c. Three types
b. There are three types d. Three types are
4.to stop yourself from blinking except for a short period of time.
a. Impossible it c. It impossible
b. Impossible d. It is impossible
5. The sitka spruce hundred years to grow eleven inches
a. It takes b. To take c. By taking d. That takes
6.today was developed by Swiss scientist Horace de Sassure around 1773.
a. Mountaineering it as we know
b. Mountaineering as we know it
c. We know mountaineering is

- d. We know there is mountaineering
7.of the surface of the Earth is covered by water.
- a. Three-quarters is nearly
 - b. There is nearly three-quarters
 - c. It is nearly three-quarters
 - d. Nearly three-quarters
8. By the mid-eighteenth century..... so many new immigrants entering North America from Europe that the original colonies in the Northeast were overcrowded.
- a. It were
 - b. were
 - c. there
 - d. there were
9.not until the end of the seventeenth century that scientists began to stress the importance of experiments as a way of gaining knowledge.
- a. There was
 - b. It was
 - c. There
 - d. it
10.are the most poisonous fish in the world.
- a. There are stonefish
 - b. That the stonefish
 - c. They are stonefish
 - d. Stonefish
11. Seismic prospecting.....used to map pout rock structures below the ground.
- a. Widely
 - b. are widely
 - c. is widely
 - d. it is widely
12.in space, a rocket has to be powerful enough to break out of the pull of the Earth's gravity.
- a. To travel
 - b. It is travel
 - c. That travel
 - d. Travel