

Grammar Help Sheet

1. Find the **SIMPLE SUBJECT**:

- It is who or what the sentence is about.
- It is always a noun or pronoun.
 - A **NOUN** is a person, place, animal, thing, or idea.
 - A **PRONOUN** is a word that takes the place of a noun.

2. Find the **SIMPLE PREDICATE**:

- It is what the subject does or is.
- It is always a verb or verb phrase (main verb plus helping verbs).
 - A **VERB** is the word or phrase that shows action or a state of being.
 - There are 23 helping verbs:
 - is, am, are, was, were, be, being, been**
 - has, have, had**
 - do, did, does**
 - can, could, will, would, shall, should, may, might, must** → ALWAYS helping verbs.

3. Find the **COMPLETE SUBJECT**:

- It is the simple subject plus all the words that identify the person, place, animal, thing, or idea the sentence is about.

4. Find the **COMPLETE PREDICATE**:

- It is the simple predicate plus all the words that tell or ask something about what the subject does or is.

To find specific parts of speech, first label all the other words you are sure of. For example, if you are looking for adjectives, you can label the simple subject as a noun and the simple predicate a verb. You can label other nouns and verbs you recognize (don't forget helping verbs). You can identify other words you are always sure of, such as: *a, an, and the* (adjectives); *not* (adverb); and *but, and, and or* (the most common conjunctions).

5. Find **MODIFIERS**:

A. To find **ADJECTIVES**:

1. Identify all nouns and pronouns.
2. Find words which answer these questions about nouns and pronouns:
 - What kind of? - How many? - Which ones?

B. To find **ADVERBS**:

1. Identify all verbs and adjectives.
2. Find words which answer these questions about verbs and adjectives:
 - When? - Where? - Why? - How? - How much? - How often?
3. Look at the adverbs you have identified. Any words which answer "how?" about them are also adverbs.

6. Find **PREPOSITIONS**:

- They are words which show a relationship between a particular noun or pronoun in the sentence and another word in the sentence. Some common prepositions are:

aboard	against	as	beneath	by	for	like	onto	since	under	with
about	along	at	beside	despite	from	near	out	through	underneath	within
above	alongside	before	between	down	in	of	outside	throughout	until	without
across	among	behind	beyond	during	inside	off	over	to	up	
after	around	below	but(except)	except	into	on	past	toward	upon	

7. Find **CONJUNCTIONS**:

- They connect words or groups of words.
- Common conjunctions include: *and, or, nor, for, but, so, yet*.

8. Find **INTERJECTIONS**:

- An interjection is a word or short group of words used to express a feeling such as anger, fear, joy, or surprise.
- Interjections usually come at the beginnings of sentences, and are usually set off by a comma or exclamation point.
- An interjection can stand alone as a sentence--the exception to the rule that every sentence needs a subject and a predicate.
- Examples include: *gosh, my dear, hello, good grief, oh, ouch, oops, wow, yeah, yahoo*.