

ACTIVITY 1

Identify each sentence part in the author's sentence:

(modifier) = M

S = subject

P = predicate

T = tool

Remember: Subjects and predicates cannot be removed from a sentence without destroying it. Tools can be removed (although no one would want to because they add so much to sentences). Use the removability tests for categorizing each listed sentence part as subject, predicate, or tool: if it's not removable, it's either a subject or a predicate; if it is removable, it's a tool.

EXAMPLE

His black hair, which had been combed wet earlier in the day, was dry now and blowing.

J. D. Salinger, "The Laughing Man"

- a. His black hair, (*subject—not removable*)
- b. which had been combed wet earlier in the day, (*tool—removable*)
- c. was dry now and blowing. (*predicate—not removable*)

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1. Carrie looked up, her eyes dazed from the heat and the steady, pounding roar of the water from the shower.

Stephen King, *Carrie*

- a. Carrie
- b. looked up,
- c. her eyes dazed from the heat and the steady, pounding roar of the water from the shower.

2. To the surprise of one and all, in the first days of the war fever, Stobrod enlisted in the army.

Charles Frazier, *Cold Mountain*

- a. To the surprise of one and all,
- b. in the first days of the war fever,
- c. Stobrod
- d. enlisted in the army.

3. As the contest for the State Legislature that would name his successor raged in Missouri, Senator Benton stood fast by his post in Washington, outspoken to the end in his condemnation of the views his constituents now embraced.

John F. Kennedy, *Profiles in Courage*

- a. As the contest for the State Legislature that would name his successor raged in Missouri,
- b. Senator Benton
- c. stood fast by his post in Washington,
- d. outspoken to the end in his condemnation of the views his constituents now embraced.

4. More than midway down the block, Janet Gordon, who had been one of Clara's best friends, came out to pick up the baby.

Edward P. Jones, *Lost in the City*

- a. More than midway down the block,
- b. Janet Gordon,
- c. who had been one of Clara's best friends,
- d. came out to pick up the baby.

5. Out of breath from running, we three stood, staggering, coughing.

Annie Dillard, *An American Childhood*

- a. Out of breath from running,
- b. we three
- c. stood,
- d. staggering,
- e. coughing.

6. The feeling of family, a rare and treasured sentiment, pervades and accounts for the inability of the people to leave *the barrio*, a place of closeness.

Robert Ramirez, "The Barrio"

- a. The feeling of family,
- b. a rare and treasured sentiment,
- c. pervades and accounts for the inability of the people to leave *the barrio*,
- d. a place of closeness.

7. To demonstrate sisterhood and brotherhood with the plants and animals, the old-time people made animal masks and costumes, transforming the human figures of the dancers into the animal beings they portrayed.

Leslie Marmon Silko, *Yellow Woman and a Beauty of the Spirit*

- a. To demonstrate sisterhood and brotherhood with the plants and animals,
- b. the old-time people
- c. made animal masks and costumes,
- d. transforming the human figures of the dancers into the animal beings they portrayed.

8. The trip to the hospital was a nightmare, all three children crying, Cheri chain-smoking, his head ringing with bourbon and fatigue.

Annie Proulx, "The Wamsutter Wolf"

- a. The trip to the hospital
 - b. was a nightmare,
 - c. all three children crying,
 - d. Cheri chain-smoking,
 - e. his head ringing with bourbon and fatigue.
9. On a bus trip to London from Oxford University, a young man, obviously fresh from a pub, spotted me and went down on his knees in the aisle, breaking into his Irish tenor's rendition of "Maria" from *West Side Story*.

Judith Ortiz Cofer, "The Myth of the Latin Woman"

- a. On a bus trip to London from Oxford University,
 - b. a young man,
 - c. obviously fresh from a pub,
 - d. spotted me and went down on his knees in the aisle,
 - e. breaking into his Irish tenor's rendition of "Maria" from *West Side Story*.
10. Once, at the Library of Congress in Washington, I was shown the contents of Lincoln's pockets on the night that he was shot at Ford's Theater, a Confederate bank note, perhaps acquired during the President's recent excursion to the fallen capital of Richmond, and a pocket knife.

Gore Vidal, "Lincoln Up Close"

- a. Once,
- b. at the Library of Congress in Washington,
- c. I
- d. was shown the contents of Lincoln's pockets on the night that he was shot at Ford's Theater,
- e. a Confederate bank note,
- f. perhaps acquired during the President's recent excursion to the fallen capital of Richmond,
- g. and a pocket knife.

ACTIVITY 2

Add a tool at each caret mark (^). The first words of the tools are provided. The last five sentences illustrate that good writers sometimes use more than one tool to tell their readers more within the sentence. *Important:* Tools are sentence parts, not sentences. Don't add another sentence, just a sentence part.

EXAMPLE

Incomplete Sentence: In the other narrow bed, his brother went on sleeping, undisturbed by ^ .

Sample Addition: In the other narrow bed, his brother went on sleeping, undisturbed by the loud snoring of his brother from the other twin bed.

Original: In the other narrow bed, his brother went on sleeping, undisturbed by the alarm clock's rusty ring.

Gina Berriault, "The Stone Boy"
