

Let's Write More Sentences!

Lesson 1

Here is what we will learn in this lesson:

What are **compound subjects and verbs**?

What is a **direct object**?

How do I use the **dictionary**?

What are **synonyms** and **antonyms**?



Part 1: Compound Subjects and Verbs

In Let's Write Sentences, you learned about subjects and verbs. All sentences must have a subject and a verb to be complete. Sometimes, a sentence will have more than one subject or more than one verb.

A **compound subject** includes two or more subjects in one sentence.

Example: **Dillon and Taylor play basketball.**

Dillon and *Taylor* are the two subjects in this sentence.



A **compound verb** includes two or more verbs in one sentence. Please be aware that you do not put a comma before “and” when you are joining two actions.

Example: **Kelsey played the harmonica and danced around the room.**

Played and *danced* are the two verbs in this sentence. Kelsey did more than one action. **Notice that there is NOT a comma before the word “and.”**

Now you try it:

Decide whether these sentences have a compound subject or a compound verb and write subject or verb on the line.

1. Anthony and Eric worked hard on their science project. _____
2. The earth revolves around the sun and rotates on its axis. _____
3. The dog ran and jumped in the yard yesterday afternoon. _____
4. Mrs. Kellen and Mr. Jones are the best teachers in school. _____
5. I had to go to the store and pick up some groceries today. _____

Part 2: Direct Objects

A sentence can be made up of more than a subject and a verb. It can also have a **direct object**. A **direct object** receives the action of a verb in a sentence. It is a person or thing and, it answers the questions who? or what?

The first part of finding the direct object is finding the **subject** and the **verb**.

Take a look at this example:

She fed the dog.

First, in this sentence, the subject is **she**.

Second, the verb is **fed**.



Finally, the direct object is the thing that is receiving the feeding. Who or what is receiving the feeding? The dog. The direct object is the **dog**.

Adding direct objects to your sentences is a great way to add more detail to your writing. It allows the reader to know exactly who or what is receiving the action in your sentence.

A simple way to remember how to add direct objects is this:

subject + verb + what? or who? *Note: Do **not** ask **in** or **on** what.



Direct Object

Now you try it:

Add a **direct object** to these sentences:

1. My mom read a _____. (What did she read?)
2. Tom ate _____. (What did he eat?)

Part 3: Using the Dictionary

A **dictionary** is a very useful tool for writers. There are five main things that a dictionary shows:

1. **The proper spelling of a word.**
2. **How to pronounce (say) a word.**
3. **The syllables of a word.**
4. **Part of speech of the word. (noun, verb, adjective, etc..)**
4. **The meaning of a word.**

Many times when we are writing we will use the dictionary to look up how to spell a word or to see what it means. This is an excellent skill to use. The words in dictionaries are listed in alphabetical order.

Let's take a look at a sample dictionary entry.

mag ma (mag ma) *n.* melted crust that is inside the earth.

This dictionary entry shows us first how to spell the word magma. It shows us the syllables of the word (mag-ma) and how to say it. It shows us that it is a noun, and it tells us the meaning of the word.

Now you try it:

Use this dictionary entry to answer the following questions:

mam mal (mam el) *n.* an animal that has fur and feeds its young milk.

1. How many syllables does this word have? _____
2. What part of speech is it? _____
3. What does mammal mean? _____

Part 4: Synonyms and Antonyms and the Thesaurus

Synonyms are words that have similar meanings. Sometimes, when we write, we need to use different words, but we want them to have a certain meaning.

For example, look at the word “happy.” If we use the word “happy” all the time in our writing, it would be pretty boring. To fix this, we can find a synonym for happy instead. A synonym for **happy** might be **thrilled**. We simply replace the word happy with thrilled to make our writing more interesting.

Other examples of synonyms:

walk – saunter, stroll, march, pace

good – nice, kind, thoughtful, caring

Now you try it:

Choose the **synonym** to replace the underlined word in each sentence:

1. The girl is nice.

a. mean b. sad c. kind

2. My sister and I bought a cat

a. pet b. teased c. purchased

An **antonym** is a word that has a meaning OPPOSITE to that of another word.

Example: **Old is the antonym for the word new.**

Here are some other **antonyms**:

stop/go
up/down
add/subtract
all/none
walk/run

Now you try it:

Choose the **antonym** to the underlined word in each sentence:

1. I had to walk to school today.
a. talk b. dive c. run
2. My mother told me to stop yelling.
a. whispering b. jumping c. waving

A **thesaurus** is another helpful tool we can use to help us find synonyms or antonyms for certain words. A thesaurus shows us two things:

- 1. Synonyms (words with same meanings)**
- 2. Antonyms (words with different meanings)**

Again, the thesaurus is arranged in alphabetical order to help you find words easily. We use this because we want to try to avoid using the same words over and over in our writing.

Let's Write More Sentences!

Lesson 1 Assignments:

When you type your assignments in Word, please make sure to use MLA format. Also, when you e-mail me your assignments, please make sure that the subject line includes your name, the class name (LWMS), and the assignment number or numbers.

Example: Subject: **Joe-LWMS-1A**

or (if sending more than one)

Subject: **Joe-LWMS-1B and 1C**

1A – Use the Dictionary

For this assignment, you will be using a dictionary (the book, **not** the internet) to look up words. You will have 3 parts for each word, and you need to type these in a Word document to email to me. Here is an example of what you need for each word:

1. Tree	Type the word.
2. A tall plant with a wood stem and branches.	Type the meaning of the word.
3. The tree is very tall.	Write a sentence using the word, but do not END the sentence with the word.

Please look up **two** of these three words for your 1A assignment:
sing, baseball, tent.

1B – Compound Subjects and Verbs

For this assignment, you are going to write 6 sentences. You will write 3 sentences that have a **compound subject** in them. You will write 3 sentences that have a **compound verb** in them. Please clearly mark which sentences are for which part. For all 6 of your sentences, *please underline or highlight the compound subject or the compound verb.*

Example:

Compound Subject Sentences:

1. My mom and sister baked cookies today.

Compound Verb Sentences:

1. Joseph drove the car and parked it in the garage.

1C: Direct Objects

For this assignment, you will be writing 5 sentences that have direct objects in them. After you have written your sentences, you should type the following and fill in the blanks:

1. *The subject of my sentence is* _____.
2. *The verb in my sentence is* _____.
3. *The direct object in my sentence is* _____.

Example:

Sentence 1: The little girl ran home.

The subject of my sentence is **girl**.

The verb in my sentence is **ran**.

The direct object is **home**.