

Complete, Simple, and Compound Subjects

The **complete subject** of a sentence includes all the words that tell who or what the sentence is about.

Example:

Everyone in my house is keeping a secret.

The **simple subject** is the main word or words in the complete subject.

Example:

Everyone in my house is keeping a secret.

Sometimes the complete subject and the simple subject are the same.

Example:

Marlon practiced and daydreamed for weeks before the game.

A **compound subject** contains two or more subjects that have the same predicate. The simple subjects in a compound subject are usually joined by *and* or *or*.

Example:

The craters and plains of the moon have had no human visitors for some time.



Underline the complete subject in each sentence. Then, write the simple subject on the line.

1. A wooden feeder for the birds hangs outside my window. _____
2. The clear, pleasant whistles of the goldfinches often echo in the trees nearby. _____
3. Our chubby, orange kitty watches the birds from the window. _____
4. She can't figure out exactly what to do. _____
5. I feel sorry for our poor, confused feline. _____
6. *Birds of North America* helps us identify our feathered visitors. _____
7. A strong telescope can help bird-watchers see the birds from a far distance. _____
8. Even relatively small binoculars can help watchers recognize different species. _____



Underline the compound subject in each sentence. Circle the verb.

9. Myon and I went on a camping trip last fall.
10. Myon and his dad took charge of packing and finding a campground.
11. Myon, his dad, or I should have thought about planning for rain.
12. We and all our equipment were soaked through in the first ten minutes.
13. Our sleeping bags and down jackets looked like wet dishcloths.
14. Myon and I were wet, tired, and disappointed.

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Answer Key

1. a wooden feeder for the birds; feeder
2. the clear, pleasant whistles of the goldfinches; whistles
3. our chubby, orange kitty; kitty
4. She; She
5. I; I
6. *Birds of North America*; *Birds of North America*
7. a strong telescope; telescope
8. Even relatively small binoculars; binoculars
9. Myon and I; went
10. Myon and his dad; took
11. Myon, his dad, or I; should have thought
12. We and all our equipment; were soaked
13. Our sleeping bags and down jackets; looked
14. Myon and I; were



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