

## First Nine Weeks-Midterm Practice

### ANSWER KEY

#### CLAUSES

An independent clause has a subject and a verb, and can stand alone as a sentence. A dependent/subordinate clause has a subject and a verb, but it can NOT stand alone as a sentence. Underline the independent clause once and the dependent/subordinate clause twice. *The subordinate/dependent clause is highlighted.*

1. If you go to the movies, don't forget your ticket.
2. I ate a sandwich because I was hungry.
3. We will begin the meeting whenever the boss gets here.
4. She laughed until she cried.
5. Because I didn't finish my homework, I could not go to the skating rink.
6. He ate supper when he got home.
7. Before you leave, we will eat ice cream.
8. I didn't finish my homework because I fell asleep.

#### VERB PHRASES

The simple predicate, or verb, may consist of two or more words. These words are called the **verb phrase**. A verb phrase is made up of a main verb and one or more helping verbs. A **main verb** can stand by itself as the simple predicate of a sentence.

Many different people *lived* in the American colonies.

MAIN VERB (action)

The colonists *were* hardworking.

MAIN VERB (linking)

Helping verbs help the main verb express action or show time.

Ships from England *would bring* supplies to the settlers.

VERB PHRASE (Would is the helping verb.)

Common Helping Verbs	
Forms of <i>be</i>	is, am, was, are, were, be, been
Forms of <i>do</i>	do, does, did
Forms of <i>have</i>	has, have, had
Others	may, might, can, should, could, would, shall, will

Underline the **verb phrase** in each sentence. Include **main verbs** and **helping verbs**.

1. The colonists would build a home as quickly as possible.

2. Wood from nearby forests was used for their homes.
3. In later years, some houses were made of brick.
4. Poor settlers could make their furniture from the many trees of the forest.
5. Wealthy families could order fancy furniture from England.

### **COMBINING SENTENCES**

**Revise each paragraph to combine short, choppy sentences.**

1. The boy struggled to ride his bike. The boy is four years old and he is feisty. The bike is new and it is a light blue color. The boy received the bike for his birthday. He struggled for two hours. However, he was unsuccessful in riding the bike.

The feisty four- year-old boy struggled unsuccessfully for two hours to ride his light blue birthday bike.

2. The animal trainer dove into the pool. The trainer was skilled and athletic. She was excited when she dove into the pool. She swam with two dolphins. The dolphins were babies. The dolphins were playful. The trainer swam with the dolphins for over an hour. When the trainer swam with the dolphins, she was happy.

The skilled, athletic animal trainer excitedly dove into the pool and happily swam for over an hour with two playful dolphins.

### **Compound subjects and predicates**

Directions: Underline the subjects and circle the predicates. On the line below, write whether the sentence has a compound subject, a compound predicate, or both.

***The predicate is highlighted***

1. James mowed lawns and delivered papers over the summer.

Compound predicate \_\_\_\_\_

2. Chris and his older sister helped their mother around the house.

Compound subject \_\_\_\_\_

3. He or she could tell you.

Compound subject \_\_\_\_\_

4. We went to the store and bought candy.

Compound predicate \_\_\_\_\_

5. Jameka and Darneka are twins.

Compound subject \_\_\_\_\_

6. My friend and I are happy at the mall.

Compound subject \_\_\_\_\_

7. The students took notes and asked questions.

Compound predicate \_\_\_\_\_

8. Tim and several other students started a club.

Compound subject \_\_\_\_\_

## THEME

Identify the theme.

In his sophomore year of high school, Michael Jordan tried out for the varsity basketball team at Laney High School in Wilmington, North Carolina. But at five feet and eleven inches tall, the coach believed that Jordan was too short to play at that level, so Jordan was cut from the team. Jordan didn't let this obstacle defeat him. In fact, it pushed him to work even harder. He trained vigorously and grew another four inches the following summer. When he finally made the varsity squad, Jordan averaged 25 points a game and went on to become one of the greatest basketball players in history.

What is the theme of the story? Never give up. Don't be a quitter .

What happens in the story that leads you to believe this? Jordan was cut from the team. He did not let this obstacle defeat him. It pushed him to work harder.

## RHYME SCHEME

Complete the rhyme scheme for Robert Frost's "Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening." Remember, look at the last word of each line, and start with the letter "A"

Stanza 1: AABA, Stanza 2: CCDC, Stanza 3: DDED, Stanza 4: EEEE

Whose woods these are I think I know, \_\_\_\_\_  
His house is in the village though \_\_\_\_\_  
He will not see me stopping here \_\_\_\_\_  
To watch his woods fill up with snow \_\_\_\_\_

My little horse must think it queer \_\_\_\_\_  
To stop without a farmhouse near \_\_\_\_\_  
Between the woods and frozen lake \_\_\_\_\_  
The darkest evening of the year. \_\_\_\_\_

He gives his harness bells a shake \_\_\_\_\_  
To ask if there is some mistake. \_\_\_\_\_  
The only other sound's the sweep \_\_\_\_\_  
Of easy wind and downy flake \_\_\_\_\_

The woods are lovely, dark and deep, \_\_\_\_\_  
But I have promises to keep, \_\_\_\_\_  
And miles to go before I sleep, \_\_\_\_\_  
And miles to go before I sleep. \_\_\_\_\_