

**Last Name:**

**Class:**

# **8th Grade Grammar Guide & Workbook**

**2024-2025**

# Grammar Workbook Symbols



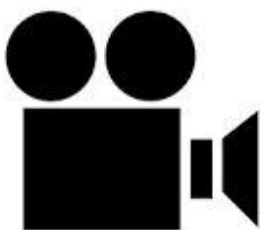
Whenever you see this book, it means a new concept or unit will be introduced.



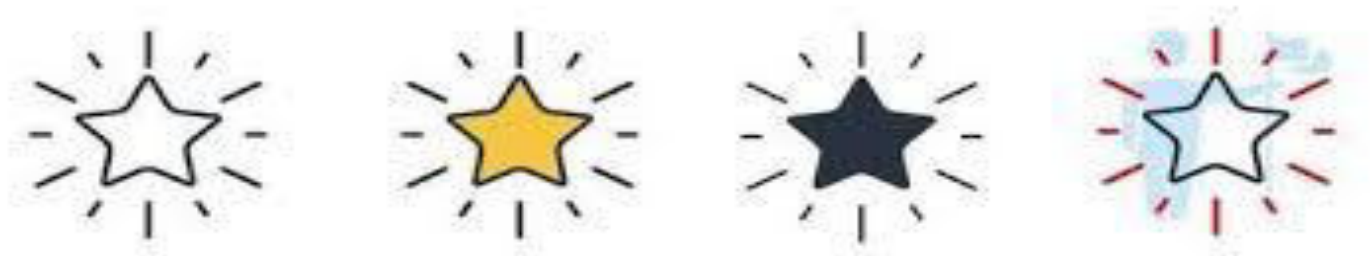
Wherever you see the “mentor sentences” box, you will find example sentences that highlight the key concept of the lesson.



Wherever you see the “pencil in the blue circle,” you will find practice exercises that will be done in class or for homework.



Wherever you see the “film” icon, you will find videos explaining the concept taught in class.



# 8th Grade Grammar Bootcamp



# Word Graveyard:



A resting place for words that have been overused in middle school writing:

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Nice

Very

Mad

Awesome

Got

Stuff

Good

Get

Little

Bad

Nice

Great

Cool

Said\*

Sad

A lot

Went

OK



# Parts of Speech



**Each part of speech answers a question:**

- **Nouns (subject):** Who? What?  
Jill, Matt, school, Arizona, mountain
- **Adjectives:** What kind? How many?  
Many (opportunities), few (people),  
blue (sky), difficult (situation), shiny (shoes)
- **Verbs (predicate):** Did what? Is what?  
run, bike,  
\*\*There are also state of being verbs: is, are
- **Adverbs:** How?  
swiftly (running), patiently (waiting),  
joyfully (singing)
- **Preposition/Prepositional Phrases:** Where?  
to (the park), in (the afternoon), under (the  
table), above (the bookshelf)
- **Pronouns:** Who? Whose?  
him, her, them, their, its

# Parts of Speech



There are also **articles**, **conjunctions** and **interjections** that we will review.

→ **Articles:** tiny words that come before nouns

a ship, a map, an apple, an hour

→ **Conjunctions:** connecting words that link clauses  
for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so, although,  
since, unless

→ **Interjections:** an exclamation

Oh no! Yikes! Ouch! Bravo! Yes! No!



# Subjects and Predicates



**A complete sentence has two parts:**

**a subject and a predicate**

## Subject

**The subject** refers to who or what is doing something in a sentence. It is the **noun** (person/place/thing) that the whole sentence is about.

The **complete subject** is the noun that the sentence is about and all the words describing it.

noun    verb

The fluffy, excited **dog** ran.

Subject = dog

Complete subject - The fluffy, excited dog

## Predicate

The Latin root, *praedicare*, means *to tell* or *to preach*. It indicates action. The **predicate** always includes a **verb**.

The “**complete predicate**” is all the words modifying or describing the action or state of being in the sentence.

# Subjects and Predicates



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*Complete subject* - The fluffy, excited dog



# Subjects and Predicates



**A complete sentence has two parts:**

**a subject** and **a predicate**

## **Predicate**

The Latin root, praedicare, means to tell or to preach. It indicates action. The **predicate** always includes a **verb**.

The “**complete predicate**” is all the words modifying or describing the action or state of being in the sentence.

The fluffy, excited dog ran swiftly around the corner.

*Predicate* = ran

*Complete predicate* = ran swiftly around the corner

# The Subject and the Predicate

**Directions: Read the following sentences and identify the complete subject and the complete predicate in each.**

**1. The cat has a long black tail.**

- a. Who or what is this sentence about?  
Underline the subject.
- b. What is the subject of the sentence doing.  
Highlight the verb/predicate pink.

**2. The delicate dish was shattered into many pieces.**

- a. Who or what is this sentence about?  
Underline the subject.
- b. What is the subject of the sentence doing.  
Highlight the verb/predicate.

**3. That three fisherman rowed the boat.**

- a. Who or what is this sentence about?  
Underline the subject.
- b. What is the subject of the sentence doing.  
Highlight the verb/predicate.

**4. My brother Nate is a pitcher for his baseball team.**

- a. Who or what is this sentence about?  
Underline the subject.
- b. What is the subject of the sentence doing.  
Highlight the verb/predicate.

# The Subject and the Predicate

**5. His math workbook is lost somewhere in the house.**

a. Who or what is this sentence about?

Underline the subject.

b. What is the subject of the sentence doing?

Highlight the verb/predicate.

**6. My luggage was lost on the way home from Spain.**

a. Who or what is this sentence about?

Underline the subject.

b. What is the subject of the sentence doing?

Highlight the verb/predicate.

**7. The girls' basketball team has another away game.**

a. Who or what is this sentence about?

Underline the subject.

b. What is the subject of the sentence doing?

Highlight the verb/predicate.

**8. The teacher took two weeks to grade the book reports.**

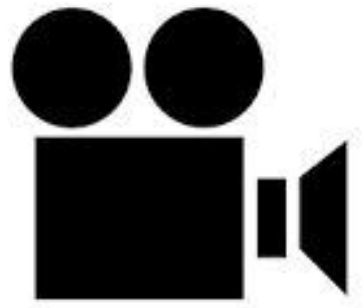
a. Who or what is this sentence about?

Underline the subject.

b. What is the subject of the sentence doing?

Highlight the verb/predicate.

## Extra Resources: Review



Directions: On your own, watch the following video on subjects and predicates and then answer the practice questions.

### Subjects & Predicates Video

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/grammar/syntax-sentences-and-clauses/subjects-and-predicates/v/subjects-and-predicates-syntax-khan-academy>

Four practice questions: Can you identify the subjects & predicates

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/grammar/syntax-sentences-and-clauses/subjects-and-predicates/e/identifying-subject-and-predicate>

# Articles (those little words)



“A”

“An”

“The”

= Articles

A | AN | THE

ARTICLES

These tiny words are called articles. They always come before a noun. They “**mark**” nouns for the reader. If you see an article, you know a noun is coming up! There may be an adjective (or two), or adverb between the article and the noun, but there will always be a noun nearby!

**A** is used before nouns that start with a consonant (non-vowel). Highlight the underlined nouns in **blue** in the sentences below.

1. **A** blue house is on the corner.  
(adj.) (noun)
2. She went home and then went to **a** coffee shop to work.  
(adj.) (noun)
3. **The** phone stopped working when its battery died.  
(noun)
4. **The** swiftly moving car ran through the red light.  
(adv.) (adj.) (noun)

**An** is used before nouns that start with a *vowel or vowel sound*.

Examples: an avocado, an apple, an honor (you do not hear an /h/ sound at the beginning of this word), an egg, an elephant, an ostrich

# Articles (those little words)



“A”

“An”

“The”

= Articles

A | AN | THE

ARTICLES

## Exceptions to the Rule!

Almost all spelling and grammar rules in English have exceptions.

We said nouns that start with a vowel or vowel sound should be preceded by “an.” But there are some nouns that start with the letter “u” or the long /u/ sound that do not follow the rule.

a university

a union

A European

A Euro (money)

# Parts of Speech: Nouns



Each part of speech answers a question in a simple sentence.

→ **Nouns (subject):** Who? What?

The subject of the sentence has a noun – a person, place or thing – that the entire sentence is about.

There are various types of nouns including:

- Common nouns      (**school**)
- Proper nouns      (**Westchester Day School**)
- Collective nouns      (**herd** of students)
- Abstract Nouns      (**bravery**)
- Concrete nouns      (**pencil**)

# Nouns: Common & Proper



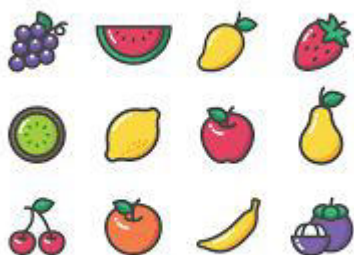
## Common Nouns

Definition: common nouns that describe a class or group of objects.

Examples of common nouns:

students, sports, town, city, state, job, drink, animal

Fruit



## Proper Nouns

Definition: proper nouns describe specific items and are capitalized.

Proper nouns can be found anywhere in a sentence. Look for capitalized words in a sentence to find them.

Examples of proper nouns:  
John, Scarsdale, Buffalo, New York, Coke, Killer Whale

John F. Kennedy  
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



# Practice Exercise: Common Nouns



**In each sentence below highlight the common nouns.**

1. The children went out to the playground to enjoy sports during recess.
  2. The teacher assigned a book for the students to read over break.
  3. The musician practiced twice a day for an entire year leading up to the concert.
- 

**Your turn!**

**Write two sentences of your own and try to include at least three common nouns in each sentence. Highlight your common nouns.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Practice Exercise: Proper Nouns

In each sentence below highlight the proper nouns.

Hint: look for the capitalized words.

1. My family has season tickets to the .New York Giants Football games, and my family attends all of the home games in New Jersey.
2. My brother and I went to a musical festival in Asbury Park and heard Bruce Springsteen play at the Stone Pony,

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Your turn!

Write two sentences of your own.

In your first sentence, include the name of an actor or musician.

1. 

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In your second sentence include the name and location of your favorite store.

2. 

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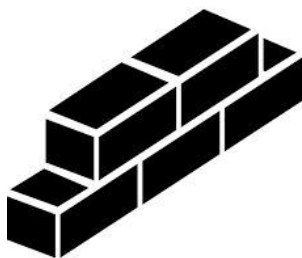
# Nouns: Concrete & Abstract



## Concrete Nouns

Definition: nouns that you can see, smell, hear, touch, or taste. Think of your senses -- if one of your senses can perceive it, it is a concrete noun.

Examples: a house, a swing, a baseball, a table, a test



## Abstract Nouns

Definition: nouns that you **can not** see, smell, hear, touch, or taste. They are “intangible.” They identify concepts, experiences, emotions, ideas, feelings, human qualities, divisions of time, and states of being.

Examples: love, courage, peace, happiness, anger, bravery, honesty, morning, autumn



# Nouns: Concrete & Abstract



Each sentence has a concrete or abstract noun. Label each noun with a “C” for concrete or “A” for abstract in the parentheses following the sentence.

1. Sarah gave her uncle a **mug** she made him for his birthday. (   )
2. The whole class wished our team **luck** as we headed for the state championship game.  
(   )
3. Dad fell asleep on the **couch** after mowing the lawn.  
(   )
4. If you always tell the **truth**, you will be trusted by others. (   )
5. **Fear** grabbed hold of her as she prepared to walk on stage for her audition.

# Nouns: Practice Exercises



In each sentence below, highlight the concrete nouns green.

1. I went shopping for groceries and drinks.
2. We looked inside the garage for the tools.
3. We took a tour of the castle.
4. I saw a moose in the woods.
5. The dolphins swam in the ocean.
6. I wore a beautiful dress and new shoes to the dance.
7. I took medicine for my headache and put a cool cloth on my forehead.
8. The door to the room creaked open and I immediately turned on the light.
9. The new movie became a sensation in Hollywood and made the actors sought after talent.

# Nouns: Practice Exercises - Answers



In each sentence below, highlight the concrete nouns green.

1. I went shopping for groceries and drinks.
2. We looked inside the garage for the tools.
3. We took a tour of the castle.
4. I saw a moose and three deer in the woods.
5. The dolphins swam in the ocean.
6. I wore a beautiful dress and new shoes to the graduation ceremony.
7. I took medicine for my headache and put a cool cloth on my forehead.
8. The door to the room creaked open and I immediately turned on the light.
9. The new movie became a sensation in Hollywood and made the actors famous.

# Practice Exercises



In each sentence below, highlight the concrete nouns green.

10. I put on a new pair of socks and my snow pants before going out into the storm.

11. I wore a vest under my jacket and a tie since I was attending a formal event.

12. I looked out the window of the hospital and hoped I would get to return home soon.

13. I read the newspaper in the morning and drank two cups of coffee.

14. We brought the equipment to the studio and did a rehearsal before the recording.

15. The stadium held thousands of people all cheering for the underdog team.

16. The brown chair looked comfortable and I quickly fell into a deep sleep.

17. I love to eat waffles with syrup or oatmeal in the morning.

# Practice Exercises – Answers



In each sentence below, highlight the concrete nouns green.

10. I put on the new socks and my snow pants before going out into the storm.

11. I wore a vest under my jacket and a tie since I was attending a formal event.

12. I looked out the window of the hospital and hoped I would get to return to my home soon.

13. I read the newspaper in the morning and drank two cups of coffee.

14. We brought the equipment to the studio.

15. The stadium was packed and everyone seemed to be cheering for the underdog team.

16. The brown chair looked comfortable and I quickly fell into a deep sleep.

17. I love to eat waffles with syrup or oatmeal in the morning.



# Practice Exercises



In each sentence below, highlight the abstract nouns purple.

1. I respected the honesty my friend showed when he confessed to cheating.
2. Can you believe that woman's brilliance?
3. To my delight, everyone arrived on time for the party.
4. She was in great despair when she lost her new phone.
5. The crowd felt a surge of hope about the future after the election.
6. They showed extreme joy when they helped the elderly couple.
7. His patriotism for our country is inspiring.
8. The soldiers showed much bravery on the battlefield at Gettysburg.
9. My mother always shows great compassion for others.
10. I was in awe of the art exhibit at the museum.
11. My parents always show their love for me.

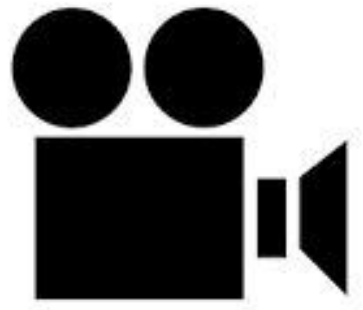
# Practice Exercises - Answers



In each sentence below, highlight the abstract nouns purple.

1. I respected the honesty my friend showed when he confessed to cheating.
2. Can you believe that woman's brilliance?
3. To my delight, everyone arrived on time for the party.
4. She was in great despair when she lost her new phone.
5. The crowd felt a surge of hope about the future after the election.
6. The elderly couple showed great joy when their neighbors came to visit unexpectedly.
7. His patriotism for our country is inspiring.
8. The soldiers showed much bravery on the battlefield at Gettysburg.
9. My mother always displays great compassion for others.
10. I was in awe of the art exhibit at the museum.
11. My parents's love for me is unconditional.

## Extra resources



Khan Academy Video: Concrete & Abstract Nouns (4 minutes)

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/grammar/parts-of-speech-the-noun/types-of-nouns/v/concrete-and-abstract-nouns>

Additional Practice: Abstract & Concrete Nouns

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/grammar/parts-of-speech-the-noun/types-of-nouns/e/abstract-and-concrete-nouns>