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The Book of Grammar

Lesson Two

Mr. McBride

AP Language and Composition

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What you should know by the end of Lesson Two

- The Five Principal (and Two Other Possible) functions of a noun in a sentence:
 - subject
 - predicate noun
 - direct object
 - indirect object
 - object of a preposition

-also-

 - appositive
 - direct address



A noun can be used in different ways in a sentence:

- As a subject
- As a predicate noun
- As a direct object
- As an indirect object
- As an object of a preposition
- As an appositive
- In direct address

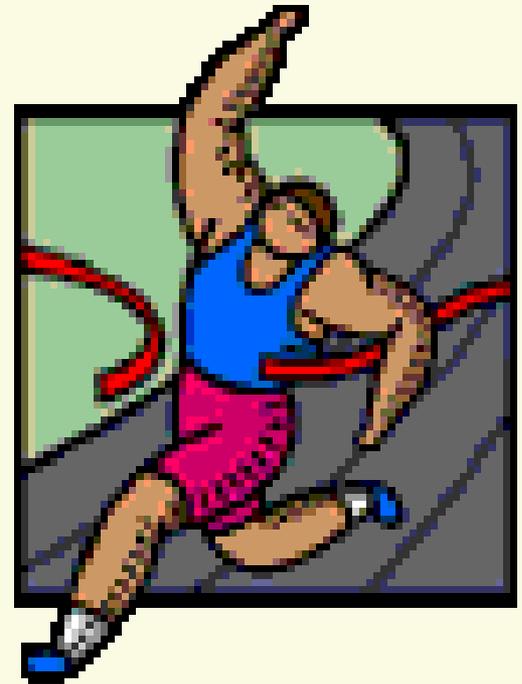


Subject of the verb

- The subject of a sentence (or clause) is the noun (or pronoun or noun phrase) that precedes and governs the verb.
- For Example:
 - **Pauline** kicked the basketball.
 - The **Los Angeles Times** reported on the president's dilemma.

Find the subjects in these sentences:

- “The race was close.”
 - *What* was close? Race
- “Jim won the race.”
 - *Who* won the race? Jim
- “Jim pumped his fist.”
 - *Who* pumped? Jim

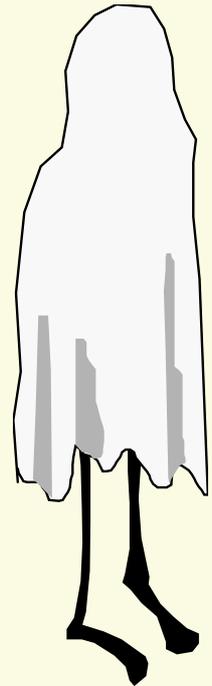


Predicate Noun

- A predicate noun is normally placed after the verb: it answers the question *what?* or *who?* and it refers to or renames the subject of the sentence.
- Predicate nouns can only follow linking verbs.
 - “The king was a tyrant.”
 - “The postmaster is John Smith.”

Predicate noun continued...

- Predicate nouns are called predicate nouns because they are nouns located in the predicate of the sentence that refer to or rename the subject of the sentence.
 - “My uncle was a captain.”
 - “The director was a fool.”
 - “For Halloween, Jim was a ghost.”



There are three ways that a noun can be an **object**:

- A noun can be a direct object
- A noun can be an indirect object
- A noun can be the object of a preposition

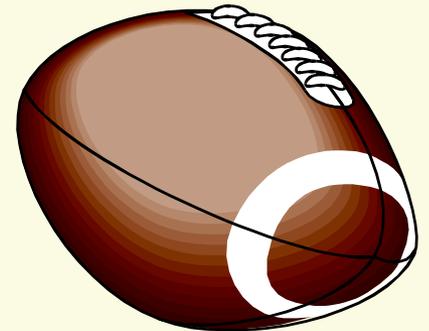
Before examining this further, lets look at a definition of what an **object** is....

The object of a sentence

- A noun that is acted on by a verb is an **object**.
- If the verb is *give*, for example, the object could be the thing you give or the person the thing is given to:
 - “Cassandra gives Michael the gift.”
 - *Michael*, the recipient of Cassandra’s generosity, and *gift*, the thing given, are both objects in the sentence.

Direct Object

- A **direct object** is a noun that directly receives the action expressed by the verb.
 - “Harry throws the ball.”
 - **The ball** is what is thrown; it receives the action of the verb, *throws*, so it is the **direct object** in the sentence.



Direct object continued...

- The direct object is normally placed after the verb. It answers the question *what* or *whom* received the action of the verb.
 - “Jasmine kicked the ball.”
 - What was kicked?
 - “The bee stung the student.”
 - The bee stung whom?

Indirect Object

- An **indirect object** is a noun in the predicate that usually tells *to whom* or *for whom* the action of the verb is done. It most often precedes the direct object.
- Harry is the indirect object in both of the following sentences:
 - The postman left Harry a letter.
 - Jim gave Harry a ride to the game.

Examples of nouns used as direct and indirect objects:

- Harry gave Sally (indirect object) the flu (direct object).
 - To find the direct object, ask yourself “What was given?” The flu.
 - To find the indirect object ask yourself “To what or whom was the flu given?” Sally.
- Think of it as a game of catch; you throw a direct object to an indirect object.
 - Harry threw Sally the ball.

Object of a Preposition

- A noun that is the object of a prepositional phrase is the object of the preposition:
 - The pumpkin is in the yard.
 - Harry is in the pumpkin patch.
 - The pumpkin is in the yard.
 - Harry is in the pumpkin patch.
 - Jack's home is in the pumpkin patch.
 - The pumpkin is in the yard.

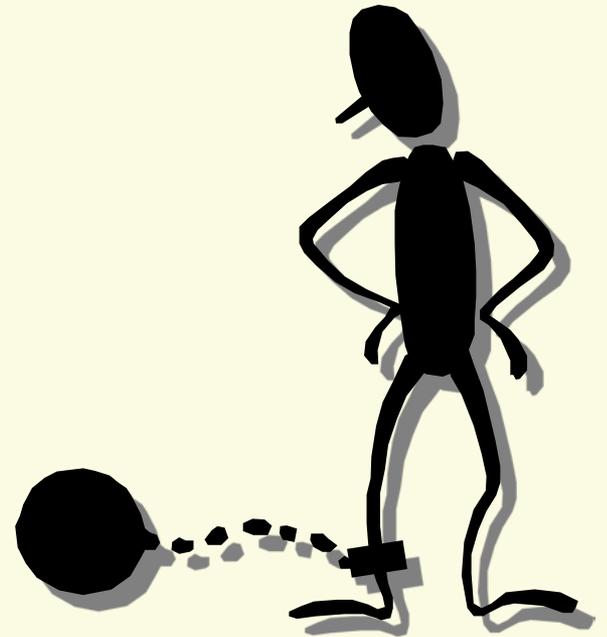


Appositive

- An appositive is a word or group of words that means the same thing as the noun it follows. Usually it identifies or explains the noun.
- An appositive is **not** connected to the subject by a linking verb.

An example of a noun used as an appositive:

- “Tom Walker, a foolish man, sold his soul to the devil.”



Direct Address

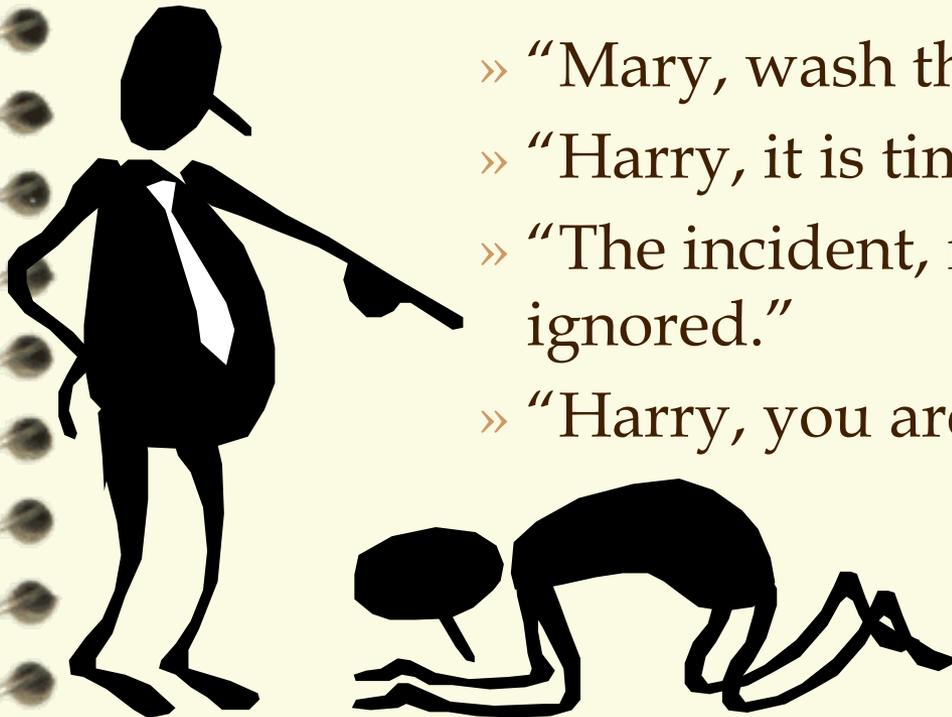
- A noun is used in direct address when it names the person being addressed in the sentence.

» “Mary, wash the dishes!”

» “Harry, it is time for dinner.”

» “The incident, my friends, must not be ignored.”

» “Harry, you are an incompetent oaf!”



The Process

- *The process* is a method to follow for identifying the different roles that nouns are playing in a sentence. You should memorize *the process* and be able to apply it to any sentence.



The Process continued...

1. Identify all prepositional phrases and remove them from the sentence
 - If the noun is in the prepositional phrase it is an **object of the preposition**
2. Find the verb
 - Action or Linking? → If linking, is the noun a **predicate noun**?
3. Who/ what does the verb?
 - This is the **subject**.

The Process continued...

4. Ask the following question:

“What was *{insert verb here}*?”

- The answer to this question is the **direct object**

5. To who/for whom was the action of the verb done?

- This is the **Indirect Object**

If there are still unidentified nouns:

- Does the noun in question directly follow another noun (no linking verb) and rename the noun?
 - This is an **appositive**.
- Is the noun the name of somebody who is being addressed?
 - This is a noun in **direct address**.

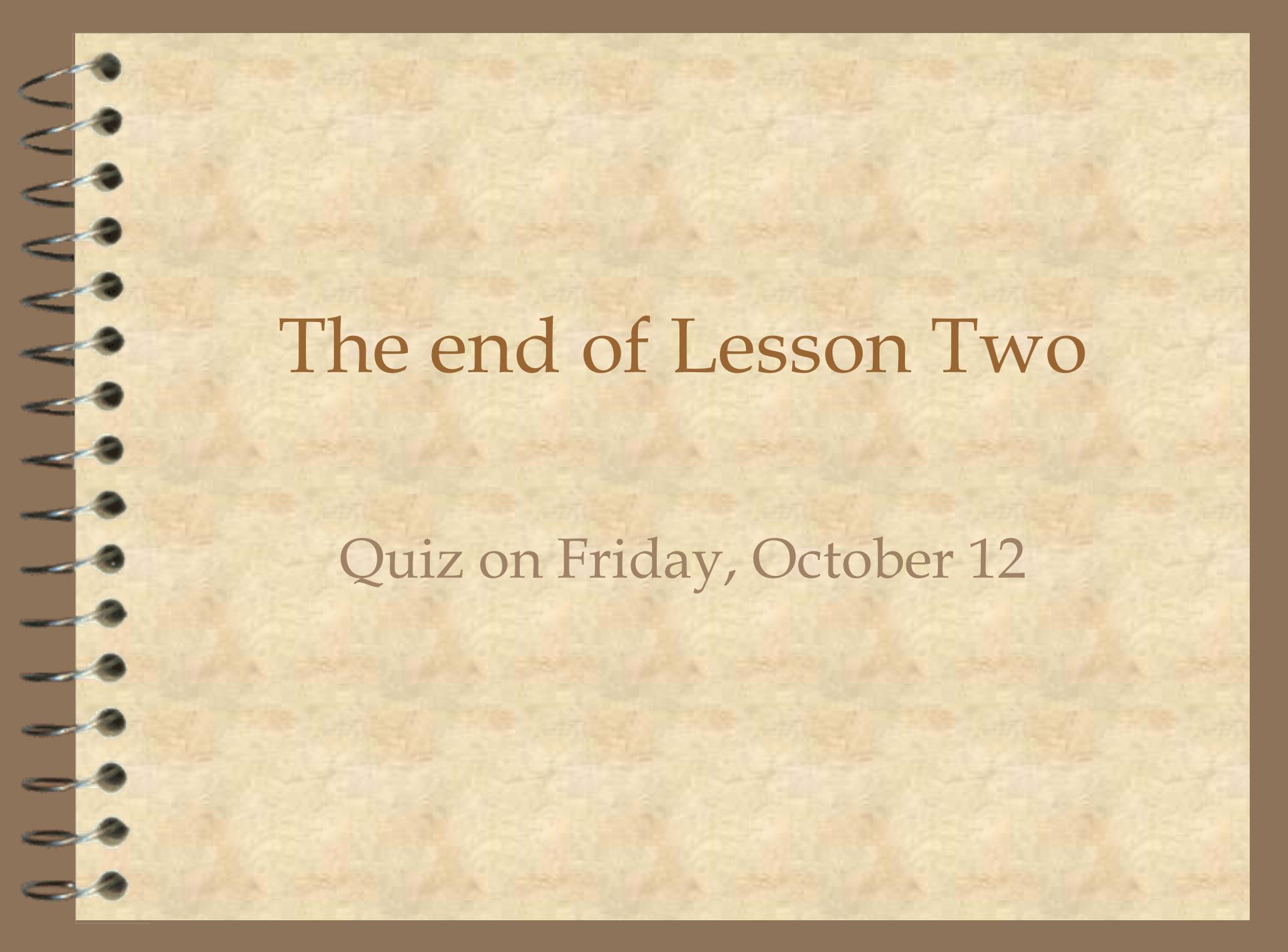
Application of *the process*

Try to apply the process to the following sentences:

- Jill, a strong player, kicked Jack the ball at recess.
- Sabrina gave Bob the measles.
- Jack was a poor man, over his head in debt.

What you should know at the end of this lesson.

- You should know how to identify the following uses of nouns:
 - subject, predicate noun, direct object, indirect object, object of the preposition, appositive, direct address
- You should know what *the process* is and how to apply it to sentences

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The end of Lesson Two

Quiz on Friday, October 12