

THE ACORN POLICE

***Recognizing sentence parts***

---

---

*Please find the simple subject and underline it once; underline only the significant subject word or words. Also, find the simple verb and underline it twice; underline only the main verb and its helping verbs.*

1) In the distance, through the woods, a light was visible to anyone in the vicinity.

2) Upon closer inspection, a small fire crackled agreeably by a narrow creek.

---

---

*Find the complete subject and underline it once; underline the subject plus any modifiers. Find the complete predicate and underline it twice; underline the main verb plus helpers plus objects or complements plus any associated modifiers. Every part of the sentence should be underlined one way or another (unless there is an interjection). If a word or phrase washes adverbially across the entire sentence, underline that phrase twice.*

3) Nearby the fire, sat two odd creatures.

4) Actually, the two were not really sitting but squatting on their haunches.

5) One poked at the fire with a short stick.

***Focusing on Verbs***

---

---

*Tell whether the verbs in the following sentences are transitive or intransitive. If a sentence has a dependent clause (marked in square brackets) tell whether the verb of that clause is transitive or intransitive.*

6) The other held a lumpy bag [that looked quite full].

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7) He grasped the bag loosely, but he was vigilant and listened attentively to noises in the night.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8) The creature with the stick poked the fire absentmindedly, but [when a twig snapped in the darkness], his head swiveled toward the sound, and his bright eyes pierced the dark.

---

---

---

---

---

---

*Identify whether the main verb in the following sentences is in the active or passive voice. Rewrite the sentence using the opposite voice. You do not have to use all of the words in the original sentence, but the meaning must remain substantially unchanged.*

9) "I sense trouble tonight."

Voice: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

10) Silently, the other creature shook the bag with almost a tenderness or a careful regard for its bulging contents.

Voice: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

***Prepositional Phrases***

---

---

*Place parentheses around the prepositional phrases in the following sentences.*

11) Into the dark of night, these two stayed by the fire with the woods nearby.

12) In appearance, they looked like twigs, [although they definitely were not ents or bowtruckles].

*Please draw arrows that show what other word(s) in each sentence are modified by the identified prepositional phrases.*

13) (At one point), the sound (of soft, slow marching) was heard coming (from the woods) (to the West).

14) One creature stood up (at this sound) and waited (for a moment) [until a small group (of similar creatures) entered the firelight].

15) Each member (of the group) carried bulging bundles (like the one) held (by the second creature).

### ***Objects and Complements***

---

---

*Underline and identify any direct objects (DO), indirect objects (IO) or object complements (OC) in the following sentences. If there is more than one clause in a sentence, find these objects in each of the clauses.*

16) “Open those bags,” cried the first creature.

*Tricky. Two extra points if this is answered correctly.*

17) The other creatures considered him their superior and complied readily with his demands.

18) They each upended their bags and out tumbled acorn after acorn.

*Tricky.*

19) The creature, [who was actually a lieutenant], sorted through the acorns and handed his still-seated companion a particularly fine-looking black acorn.

20) [While he had not given his companion the largest acorn], he had selected the smoothest one, and it was certainly very pretty for an acorn.

*Underline and identify any predicate nouns (PN) and/or predicate adjectives (PA) in the following sentences. If there is more than one clause in a sentence, find these complements in each of the clauses.*

21) The companion creature, [whose name was Augustine], turned the acorn over in his hand and smiled.

22) “This one seems perfect, and I should know!”

23) “I am Augustine; my father was Augustine; and his father was Augustine before him; and each in our turn has been Chief of the Acorn Police.

*Underline and identify any direct objects (DO), indirect objects (IO), object complements (OC), predicate nouns (PN) and/or predicate adjectives (PA) in the following sentences. If there is more than one clause in a sentence, find these objects and complements in each of the clauses.*

24) The assembled members of the Acorn Police were silent [as the chief opened the bag in his hand and emptied its contents onto the forest floor].

25) He moved his hand in a circular motion across the top of the beautiful, shiny acorns, each black and bright as a black pearl or precious obsidian.

26) A younger member of the force squealed in delight and received a look of reprimand in return.



27) The police were a proud group, and this was serious business.

28) Long ago, a plague of squirrels [whose population had grown exponentially] had eaten the acorn crop to dangerously low levels.

29) The acorns [that escaped the depredations of the squirrel horde] succumbed in following years to a blight [that brought the precious seeds disease and infertility.]

30) Over time, the population of the oak forest discovered the secret of the black acorns, [which were not only beautiful but disease resistant].

*Case*

---

---

*Circle the appropriate case of the pronouns in question.*

31) The Augustines were those [**who/whom** first discovered this fact].

32) “**Whoever/whomever** could guess [that our world would depend upon a small black Acorn?]” spoke Augustine to his fellows.

33) “We Quercuskind (for that was their name) [**who/whom** all forest residents know] protect the mighty oaks by protecting their lowly seed.”

34) With those words, Augustine carefully gathered the acorns back into the bag and handed it to the lieutenant [**who/whom** stood nearby].

35) “[If you ask **I/me**,]” spoke the lieutenant, “You and **I/me**, and all of the Acorn Police, are honored by our duties.”

*Note the two decisions about case necessary in sentence 35*