

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 ^{LV}light was visible to anyone in the vicinity.

2) Upon closer inspection, a small ^{AV}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 ^{AV} held a lumpy bag ^{DO} [that ^{LV} looked quite full].

TRANSITIVE

intransitive

7) He ^{AV} grasped the bag loosely, but he ^{DO} was ^{LV} vigilant and ^{AV} listened attentively to noises in the night.

Transitive

intransitive

I accepted either transitive or intransitive given the grammatical analysis presented in the accompanying box.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING

"He listened attentively (to noises)."
This is in the "hidden" Active voice

"Noises were listened attentively by him"

(to noises) is a broken prepositional phrase - we will discuss this

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

transitive

intransitive

intransitive

transitive

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: Active

Trouble was sensed by me tonight.

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

Voice: Active

Silently, the bag was shaken with almost a tenderness or a careful regard for its bulging contents by the other creature.

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. *It was fine w/ me if you closed the parentheses after "nearby."*

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

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

I think this modifies the entire sentence but at least the verb
 13) (At one point), the sound (of soft, slow marching) was heard coming (from the woods) (to the West).
 gerund
 I think this is 2ndary, but acceptable.

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.

(IO) AV DO AV S
 16) Open those bags, cried the first creature.

DO

Tricky. Two extra points if this is answered correctly.

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THE FIRST EXAMINATION, FALL 2015

17) The other creatures ^{AV} considered ^{DO} him ^{OC} their superior and ^{AV} complied readily (with his demands.)

18) ^S They each ^{AV} upended ^{DO} their bags ^{AV} and ^S out tumbled acorn (after acorn.)

Tricky.

19) The creature, [^S who ^S was ^{LV} actually a lieutenant], ^{PN} sorted ^{AV} (through the acorns) and ^{AV} handed ^{IO} his still-seated companion a particularly fine-looking ^{DO} black acorn.

20) [^S While he ^{AV} had not given ^{IO} his companion the largest acorn], he ^{DO} had ^{AV} selected ^{DO} the smoothest one, and ^S it was ^{LV} certainly very pretty ^{PA} (for an acorn.)

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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 ^{DO} over (in his hand) and smiled.
Handwritten annotations: S above the first clause, S LV PN AV above the second clause, DO over 'over', and AV above 'smiled'.

22) "This one seems perfect, and I should know!"
Handwritten annotations: S LV PA AV above the first clause, and S above the second clause.

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.)
Handwritten annotations: S LV PN above the first clause, S LV PN above the second clause, S LV above the third clause, PN above 'Augustine (before him)', S above 'each (in our turn)', LV PN above 'has been Chief (of the Acorn Police.)', and double underline under 'has been'.

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 ^S (of the Acorn Police) ^{LV PA} were silent [as the chief ^{S AV DO} opened the bag (in his hand) and ^{AV DO} emptied its contents (onto the forest floor)].

25) He ^{S AV DO} 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.))

A noun phrase acting as appositive, Renaming "Acorns" - like an OC, but NOT quite

26) A younger ^S member (of the force) ^{AV} squealed (in delight) and ^{AV} received a ^{DO} look (of reprimand) in return.)

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THE FIRST EXAMINATION, FALL 2015

27) The police ^{S LV} were a proud group, ^{PN} (and) ^{S LV} this was serious business. ^{PN}

28) Long ago, a plague ^S (of squirrels) [^{S AV} whose population had grown exponentially] ^{AV} had eaten the acorn crop ^{DO} (to dangerously low levels.)

29) The acorns [^{S S AV} that escaped the depredations ^{DO} (of the squirrel horde)] ^{AV} succumbed ^{participle} (in following years) ^{S AV} (to a blight) [^{S AV} that brought the precious ^{DO DO DO} seeds disease and infertility.] ← TOUGH

30) Over time, the population ^S (of the oak forest) ^{AV DO} discovered the secret (of the black acorns) ^{S LV PA PA} [^{S LV} which were not only beautiful but disease resistant].

Case

Circle the appropriate case of the pronouns in question.

31) The Augustines were those [^Swho/~~whom~~^{AV} first discovered this fact]. ^{DO}

32) "^SWhoever/~~whomever~~^{AV} 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~~/^{DO}whom all forest residents ^Sknow] ^{AV}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 [^Swho/~~whom~~^{AV} stood nearby]. ^T

35) "^S[If you ask ^{AV}I/~~me~~], ^{DO}" spoke the lieutenant, "You and ^SI/~~me~~, ^Sand all of the Acorn Police, ^{AV}are honored by our duties."

↑
appositive

Note the two decisions about case necessary in sentence 35