

MAN-MADE ISLAND?

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 overall scheme of things, the natural scenery of Lake Fred is really very beautiful.

- 2) Individual oaks and maples and cedars and pine have grown into a handsome forest.

Find the complete subject and underline it once; underline the subject plus any modifiers. Find the complete predicate and underline it twice; underline twice the main verb plus helpers plus objects or complements plus any associated modifiers. Every part of the sentence should be under-lined 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) The slightly murky water of the lake cascades over the spillway.

4) The migrating ducks and year-round geese make their homes, at least temporarily, in safety and comfort.

5) Unfortunately, one small island on the far side of the lake has been thoroughly trashed.

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 island is near the lakeshore across from G-court.

7) It is connected to the shore by a human-built causeway of downed trees, dirt, and other fill. *tricky*

PRE-TEST

8) A partially obscured wooden sign fills one section, and plastic bags reinforce another.

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) From a distance, the island presents a beautiful tableau upon the verge of the lake.

Voice: _____

10) Standing at its center, a different scene is viewed.

Voice: _____

Prepositional Phrases

Place parentheses around the prepositional phrases in the following sentences.

11) Empty packs of cigarettes are strewn about the island; in several spots, beer bottles have been shattered and left semi-camouflaged in the dirt.

12) Near the western shore, a wicker chair has been tossed into the shallow waters.

13) Protruding halfway from the waters at the southern edge of the island is a large television.

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

14) Who would carry a 30-inch television (to the island) and toss it (into the lake)?

15) Carrying the bulky item (through the low brush) (near the shore) would make the effort too difficult (for someone) (in an inebriated or even slightly inebriated state).

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) I often consider sentinel cameras onerous.

17) But in this case I wish for some near the island.

18) Hunters and nature lovers use tree-mounted motion-activated cameras.

19) Perhaps we could give the litter bugs surprise notoriety.

PRE-TEST

20) "Litter bug" is too polite; these people are vandals and should be called such.

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 beauty of Lake Fred has always been important to the reputation of the college.

22) Who would destroy such beauty; who has the courage or stupidity for that?

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.

23) At night, after the students retire, late-night observers have seen small shadowy figures cross the causeway.

24) Their tiny feet make tiny squishes, and they carry supple cedar twigs upon each shoulder.

25) Scores of these mysterious figures bring laughter and joy to the island.

26) They pass each other the twigs on their shoulders and create elaborate patterns in the air.

27) One will be the center of a pattern, and then another will take that place.

28) The figures often stoop and sway and jump in lovely unison.

29) [As the light of dawn approaches], the crew elects one dancer queen for the upcoming sunrise.

30) With the monarch on their shoulders, the troop leaves the island; for a moment it looks fresh and clean.

31) But [as broad day breaks] [when you smell the air and view ground,] the horrid, thoughtless garbage reappears.

Case

Circle the appropriate case of the pronouns in question.

32) Many Stocktonites would like to know [**who/whom** are those shadowy figures].

33) I believe the more important question is [**who/whom** the litterbugs are]. *tricky tricky*

34) Between you and **I/me**, they are thoughtless, crass youths (unless they happen to be thoughtless crass old people).