

VERN WOULD HAVE ENJOYED THIS TEST

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 a bell tolled.

2) A man with an old-fashioned long flowing scarf around his neck, a “Do AC” sticker on his frock tailcoat, and a floppy cavalier-style hat was intermittently shouting.

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) “Bring out your dead!”

4) This disconcerting movie scene is apparently set in medieval times.

5) Suddenly, the scene fades to black and then slowly reappears and refocuses on a very different vision.

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) [While the strangely clad gentleman maintains his repetitive shout in the background] a large, well-worn, gray bulldozer crests a nearby hill.

7) The camera freezes and focuses on the dozer and then shifts its perspective beyond the hill.

8) Evidently viewers have stumbled upon some sci-fi graveyard of the future: a post-apocalyptic scene of utter devastation, with smashed bits of rubble and torn bits of clothing.

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) Years ago, Vern described that scene as the initial portion of his on-going movie script.

Voice: _____

10) Movie scripts, computer programs, and short stories were regularly created by him.

Voice: _____

Prepositional Phrases

Place parentheses around the prepositional phrases in the following sentences.

11) Today, at this very moment, Vern lies in an unmarked grave, near the back of a potters' graveyard in a forlorn, rural place.

12) By most accounts he lived an unremarkable life, but I was privileged and witnessed the textures of his remarkable existence.

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

13) (For many years), Vern slept (on the couch) (of his best friend), Bob.

14) He held various jobs (in his younger days), but [as he grew (into middle age)] he often was unemployed (for months) (at a time).

For an extra point of credit, explain your thinking concerning the way "at a time" modifies.

15) Sometimes, he tinkered (with computers); sometimes he had no access (to one); sometimes he sat quietly (in the local park) and wrote scripts (on the back) (of paper bags).

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) He was a voracious reader, and friends kept him in paperbacks.

17) His reading made him a skillful trivia player.

18) [When it was a team effort], he often gave Bob and others the answers to bar trivia.

19) I once suggested [that we name Vern bar-trivia king].

An extra point if this is answered correctly.

20) Vern knew about Canadian rock bands like Jackson Hawke and about Viking sunstones; he gave his friends great pleasure and joy.

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) His lack of money could lead to unfortunate situations: once he was hungry and wanted a frozen pizza.

22) Something looked odd under his bulky coat, and store security turned him over to the town police for shoplifting.

23) Bob was unhappy about the late hour, two a.m., but Vern was his friend, so he bailed him out.

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) Out of jail and on the ride home, Vern asked a favor of Bob.

25) Would he stop at Wegmans, so Vern could purchase himself a newspaper?

26) Bob shook his head [when ten minutes later Vern was again escorted from the store by the cops].

27) Vern had an excellent mind, but he was a poor thief; and we often laughed about twice landing in jail in eight hours.

“landing” is a gerund; it is acting as a noun, not as a verb

28) Philosophy was one of Vern's passions, and we enjoyed discussions about various ideas.

29) One of our favorite topics was the idea of life after death; did it exist?

30) After a few beers one night, Vern gave me a thoughtful look, and shared a secret.

Case

Circle the appropriate case of the pronouns in question.

31) He told me [that the doctors [**who/whom** he had never cared for] had told him [that he was dying of prostate cancer]].

32) [If he had seen one of them two years before] – [**whoever/whomever** did not matter] – the cancer would have been curable.

33) But he, like many other Americans [**who/whom** are less-well-off] could not afford health insurance.

34) He thanked me for being a good friend [with **who/whom** he could share a good chat].

35) I shook my head, and sipped my beer: “It is **I/me** [**who/whom** have had the pleasure of knowing you].”