

Act Five Review: Poodle's Dream Objects Aren't Subjects

One of the greatest and most important ideas in sentences is that **the sentence is about the subject**, a noun or a pronoun, and the verb is at the heart of that; the verb is about the subject. If we say that the chicken eats a banana, then the noun *chicken* is the subject of the verb *eats*.

This means that **the object of a preposition can never be the subject of the sentence**. Prepositional phrases are not nouns! A prepositional phrase is a **modifier**—an adjective or an adverb—and adjectives and adverbs are never subjects of sentences. So if we have a sentence such as:

The **chicken** with the **noodles** danced fast.

noodles can't be the subject. Noodles don't dance. Chickens dance. To find the subject of a sentence, don't choose the object of a preposition. Ignore the object of preposition.

Here is another example:

The **beagle** *with* the *haircut* **ate** noodles.

In this sentence, the subject/verb pair is *beagle/ate*, not *haircut/ate*. Haircuts don't eat noodles. You have never seen a haircut eat a noodle. Again: **The object of a preposition will never be the subject of the sentence.** Another way of saying this is that:

**No sentence
is about the object
of a preposition.**

Mistakes in sentences often happen if the prepositional phrase comes between the subject and its verb. Be sure you see what the real subject is.

Act Five Practice Sentences

For each sentence, identify the object of the preposition. Then identify the **subject** and **verb**.

1. The chicken under the frog flapped his wings.
2. The monster in the sand growled loudly.
3. The beagle with big feet swam away.
4. The chicken in the mud cried big tears.
5. The snail behind the tree spoke again.
6. The monster in the pudding ate beans.
7. The chicken with the noodles held a fork.
8. The snail in the cave fidgeted restlessly.