

We are now ready to begin two-level analysis. Do not worry about whether you get the analyses right or wrong for now. Look closely at the mistakes you make, and learn from them.

To summarize the parts of sentence, most sentences have either action verbs or linking verbs, which means that they are action ideas or equations. If the verb is an action verb, then it might transfer its action to a **direct object**. An example is "Jack London wrote the book." The direct object gets verbed. Sometimes the action verb does not transfer the action, and you have a sentence with an intransitive verb such as this one: "Jack London wrote quietly."

If the sentence does have an action verb and a direct object, then there might be an **indirect object** between the action verb and the direct object. An example is "Austen gave her editor the manuscript." In that sentence, *Austen* is the subject, *gave* is the action verb, *editor* is the indirect object, and *manuscript* is the direct object.

If the sentence does not have an action verb but has a linking verb instead, then the linking verb might be creating an equation between the subject and the **subject complement**, as in this sentence: "Jane Austen was a novelist." Sometimes the linking verb is present, but the subject complement is only implied. For example, if I ask, "Who is hungry?" You might say, "I am." In that sentence we know that you mean "I am hungry," but it is so obvious that you do not need to say the subject complement; it is implied rather than expressed.

One final point: In finding the parts of sentence, keep in mind that the **object of a preposition**, such as *boat* in *under the boat*, cannot also be a part of sentence. In *James looked under the boat*, the noun *boat* cannot be a direct object. It is only an object of preposition.

Here is a quick review of the main options:

Being Verb: *Once there was a hobbit.*

Intransitive Action Verb: *Dickens talked rapidly.*

Action Verb with Direct Object: *Dickens wrote the poem.*

Action Verb with Indirect Object: *Dickens gave the poem some thought.*

Action Verb in Passive Voice: *The novel was reviewed by the editor.*

Linking Verb with Subject Complement: *Tom is the main character.*