

Exercise Answers

1. Identify the subject(s) in the each of the sentences in the following paragraph. Remember that a sentence can have more than one clause and each clause must have a subject.

Many wild plants can be made into tea, and **most of them** will be caffeine free. **The plants** need to be dried and then stored properly to keep their flavor. With long-stemmed plants, **[you]** tie the stems together and **[you]** hang them upside down in a warm, well-ventilated place. Otherwise, **the leaves** may be spread on a slightly raised screen so that **air** circulates around them. **This** is the method for large quantities of leaves. For small quantities, there is also **a simple procedure [extra-posed subject]**. **[you]** Spread the leaves on half a newspaper and **[you]** fold it over.

Note: Sentences in the indicative mood have an ‘implied’ subject *you*, which I have supplied. You could also just leave the sentence blank or state that it is imperative..

2. Identify the direct objects, indirect objects, and objects of prepositions in the following sentences. Remember that direct and indirect objects may be any type of noun phrase. For the answers, bold indicates a direct object, italics indicates the object of a preposition, and underlining indicates an indirect object.

1. They have planted **rows of various kinds of roses** all along **a fence**. ← Correction here
2. The space along *the fence* has **sunlight** for *most of the day* and **protection** from *the wind*.
3. My uncle prunes **the rosebushes** carefully, but he leaves **the petals** on *the ground*.
4. My uncle presented **my mother** with *a small rosebush* to plant in *our yard*.
5. Later, my mother gave my uncle **a call** because the rosebush looked terrible.
6. **Secretly, my brother showed me the tire marks where he had run over the rose-bush going to and coming from *the mechanic's*.**

Note on sentence 6: ‘run over’ is a phrasal verb. Try substituting a roughly synonymous verb like ‘trampled’, and you’ll see that **the rose-bush** is its direct object.

3. For each of the sentences below, identify the subject, direct object, agent, and patient. State whether each sentence is in the active or passive voice. Transform the active sentences into passive ones and vice versa. Remember that you must not change the tense or aspect of the verb phrase or meaning of the sentence.

1. Oyster and clam chowders were served in many homes.

Agentless Passive

Subject: oyster and clam chowders. The subject is the patient in a passive sentence.

Active equivalent: They served oyster and clam chowders in many homes.

Notes: To convert an agentless passive sentence to an active sentence you need to supply an agent. The tense must remain a simple past tense.

2. They were sponsored by church and community socials.

Passive

Subject & Patient: they

Agent: church and community socials.

Tense/Aspect: simple past tense

Active equivalent: Church and community socials sponsored them.

3. Later, in Chicago, she was hired to turn the faltering A.M. Chicago into a success.

Agentless Passive

Subject & Patient: she

Tense/Aspect: simple past tense

Active equivalent: Later, in Chicago, someone hired her to turn the faltering A.M. Chicago into a success.

4. Oprah Winfrey is celebrated by her fans as one of television's premier women.

Passive

Subject & Patient: Oprah Winfrey

Agent: her fans

Tense/Aspect: simple present tense

Active equivalent: Her fans celebrate Oprah Winfrey as one of television's premier women. (Note: this may sound better as Oprah Winfrey's fans celebrate her as one of television's premier women.)

5. Seafood and vegetables are being made part of his diet.

Agentless Passive

Subject & Patient: Seafood and vegetables

Tense/Aspect: present progressive

Active equivalent: They are making seafood and vegetables part of his diet.

6. Bob didn't really want other food on a regular basis.

Active

Subject & Agent: Bob

Direct object & Patient: other food (**Note: in an active sentence the direct object will always be the patient.**)

Tense/Aspect: simple past tense

Passive equivalent: Other food wasn't really wanted by Bob on a regular basis.

(Admittedly, the passive version of this sentence is so awkward that you probably wouldn't use it.)