ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE
Writing Center

WHAT IS A SENTENCE?

Sentence	A sentence is a complete thought and consists of a subject and a verb. Who or what the sentence is about is called the **subject**; what the sentence says about the subject is called the **verb.**

Example: 1. The children laughed at the antics of the clown. 2. Wildflowers bloom on the hills.
To find the subject, ask who or what the sentence is about. In the sentences above, **Who** is the first sentence about? **children** **What** is the second sentence about? **Wildflowers**
To find the verb, ask what the sentence says about the subject. What does the first sentence say about the subject? **children laughed** What does the second say about the subject? **wildflowers bloom**

Types of Subjects

Person, Place, Thing	***Maria*** wears bright colored sweaters. ***Juneau***, Alaska is Steve's next destination. The old ***car*** suddenly stopped in the middle of the road.
Group	The marching ***band*** played well. ***Members*** of the team will speak at awards ceremony. ***All*** of them are here.
Idea, Quality	***Democracy*** is the best form of government. His ***principles*** are not being questioned. ***Honesty*** is considered a virtue.
Activity	***Running*** the mile is a difficult feat. ***To act*** promptly can save many lives. ***To retreat*** at this moment would be wise.
"You" (implied)	**Note:** In commands, even when we don't say or write the word "you" as the subject, it is still understood to be the subject. **(You)** Please be prompt. **(You)** Come here. John, **(you)** come here.

Pronouns are used in place of a noun and can serve as the subject of a sentence.
She seems like a lonely person. They both like to gamble. It is a very beautiful city. **(Bridget)** **(The men)** **(Seattle)**