

1. A clause must have a subject and a verb

Sally writes: “Hence, showing the reader that the senator does not take her profession seriously.”

This sentence does not have a grammatical subject.

Correction: “Hence, the author shows the reader that the senator does not take her profession seriously.”



Typically, your key message in a sentence should be in the: subject-verb-object position.

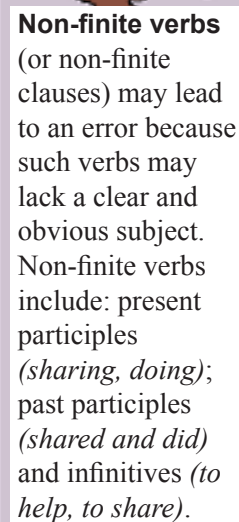
The part of the clause (or sentence) that contains the subject of the verb is called **the subject**. The subject of a sentence is always a noun or a pronoun. Generally, you can find the subject by asking “who” or “what” before the verb.

The part of the sentence that contains the verb and the object of the verb (if there is one) is called **the predicate**. Generally, you can find the object by asking “whom” or “what” after the verb.

Sally writes: “As an animal lover, who knows that puppies are cute, is questioning myself as to whether I am ready to own a pet.”

The predicate “is questioning myself” lacks a subject.

Correction: “As an animal lover, who knows that puppies are cute, I am questioning myself as to whether I am ready to own a pet.”



Non-finite verbs (or non-finite clauses) may lead to an error because such verbs may lack a clear and obvious subject. Non-finite verbs include: present participles (*sharing, doing*); past participles (*shared and did*) and infinitives (*to help, to share*).

Exercise 40

A. Indicate whether the verb is finite (F) or non-finite (N). Underline the subject.

1. Watching the birds from the top of the trees (...), I decided (...) that it would (...) be more fun to fly (...) with the birds.
2. Encouraged by her latest triumph (...), Ms Smith decided (...) to increase (...) her bike-riding efforts.
3. Weeping from frustration (...), I was (...) so disappointed that my friend failed (...) to win (...) the prize.
4. Using census data on incomes (...), the study determines (...) Australia’s most liveable city

B. Identify the clause with the incorrect non-finite verb. Rewrite the sentence.

1. At 14, the young boy got cancer, and making us feel sympathy.
2. Mr Smith condemns the increase of bike riders, and hence producing doubt about the Council’s scheme.
3. Contrastingly, Nancy accepts the norms of society and facing its reality.
4. These actions tend to overrule our parents hence needing to break free.
5. The author shames Mr Davis because failing to create a smoke-free society.
6. The ambulance’s siren blared loudly whilst practising their football drills.
7. Therefore, believing she was doing the right thing.