

# Upper KS2 Halloween Grammar Lesson



We can either listen to *Monster Mash* played backwards all day or we can learn about the three parts of a sentence.

Everyone has voted for *Monster Mash* played backwards all day!

This lesson looks at the these key parts of a sentence:

The subject of a sentence

The main verb in a sentence

Prepositional Phrases that act as adjectives or adverbs in a sentence

## WHAT TO DO

You will need to work with a partner for this lesson so choose either a cat, a pumpkin or another pupil.

You and your partner are going to make notes about subjects, verbs and prepositional phrases and then you are going to teach subjects, verbs and prepositional phrases to another pair **or** you are going to make a short video about subjects, verbs and prepositional phrases.

Your teacher will help you to decide.

Happy Halloween!



## *The Big Picture*

Every sentence must have both a subject and a main verb



Depending on the verb in the sentence the subject of the sentence is who or what is doing the *action* in a sentence  
or  
the subject is who or what is being *described* in a sentence.

Main *action* verb

The three friends *played* trick or treat.

*Helping* verb  
and *action* verb

Leon *was wearing* a skeleton costume.

*linking* verb

The full moon *was* round and bright.

The subject of the sentence is who or what is doing the *action*.

The subject of the sentence is who or what is being *described*.

This lesson looks at sentences with main action verbs

There are three types of verb  
this lesson looks at one type of verb - main action verbs



A sentence is a group of words about something or someone  
that has both a **subject** and a *verb* and makes sense

**The four children** *ran* through the woods.

In a sentence with an *action* in it, this action will be the verb.

Whoever or whatever is doing the action will be the subject.

The action in the sentence above is *ran* - so this is the verb.  
The four children are doing this action - so **the four children** are the subject.

This lesson is looking at one type of verb - action verbs



A sentence must have both a **subject** and a *verb* and it must make sense

Suddenly **a noisy owl** *hooted* in the distance.

In a sentence with an action in it, this action will be the verb.  
Whoever or whatever is doing the action will be the subject.

The action in the sentence above is *hooted* - it is what  
a noisy owl *did* so this is the verb.

The noisy owl is doing this action - so **a noisy owl** is the subject.

This lesson looks at sentences with an action verb



The subject of a sentence can be one person or thing  
or  
more than one person or thing

a sentence must have both a subject and a verb

**Large and small bats** *flew* over the woods.

*flew* is the *action* in this sentence so *flew* is the verb

Large and small bats are doing this *action* so **they** are the subject of the sentence



# A sentence must have both a subject and a verb



In an action  
verb sentence...

whoever is doing the  
action is the subject

the action being  
done by the  
subject is the verb

Two large and scary pumpkins

sat

next to a tree.

this is *who* is doing the action so  
it is the **subject** of this sentence

but we can just say the  
subject is **two pumpkins**

this is the  
action so it is  
the **verb** in  
this sentence

this is a prepositional  
phrase that tells us  
**where** the pumpkins sat

A sentence is a group of words about something or someone



A sentence  
must have  
both a subject  
and a verb

**Three of the children** *carried* Halloween buckets.

Three of the children are the subject of this sentence because they all did the action in this sentence (they all *carried* Halloween buckets)

in a sentence with an *action verb* whoever  
or whatever is doing that *action* will be the **subject**  
more than one person or thing can be doing the *same* action



A subject can be a person, a place or a thing



Whoever or whatever is doing the *action* in the sentence will be the **subject** of that sentence

**Jayden** *wore* a Zombie costume.

- the subject can be a **person**

**The woods at night** *frightened the children.*

- the subject can be a **place**

Suddenly, a **loud scream** *pierced* the air.

- the subject can be a **thing**

Reminder

The first key part of sentence  
is called the subject



the subject is who or what is doing the *action* in a sentence

The **Halloween party** *started* at 8pm.

the **subject** is the Halloween party

The subject is who or what is doing the action in a sentence  
the subject can be one person or thing or more than one person or thing



Dracula and the witch hired their  
costumes from a fancy dress shop.

the subject is **Dracula and the witch** because they are both  
doing the action - they both *hired* their costumes

The first key part of sentence is called the subject  
The second key part of sentence is called the verb



There are three  
types of verb

this lesson is  
looking at one  
type of verb:

*action verbs*

an action verb tells us the action that the subject is doing

The **mummy** *made* his costume from bandages.

the **mummy** is the subject that *made* the costume

In a sentence with an action verb, the subject is whoever or whatever is doing the action



More than one person or thing can be the **subject** of a sentence

the action the subject is doing is the *verb*

**The cat** *sat* next to the witch.

**The skeleton and Dracula** *stood* behind the mummy.

A sentence must have a subject and a verb  
the *subject* of a sentence is whoever or whatever is *doing* the  
action in the sentence and the action being done is the *verb*



A party invitation dropped through the letterbox.

A party invitation is the subject of this sentence because  
it is doing the action - it *dropped* through the letterbox.



In sentences with an action verb...

to find the subject you need to identify  
who or what is doing the action



The green slime bubbled in the witch's cauldron.

the witch is not doing the action

the green slime is doing the *action* - so this is the subject

In sentences with an action verb...

to find the subject you need to identify  
who or what is doing the action



The witch's cats played hide and seek.

the witch is not doing the action

the witch's cats are doing  
the action - so they are the subject

More than one person or thing can be doing the *same* action



if more than one person or one thing is doing the **same** action they will act as one subject

The two black cats **loved** Halloween.

the two black cats are the subject of this sentence because they are both doing the **same** action - they both loved Halloween

More than one person or thing can act as one subject



One pumpkin *wore* a hat with a pink ribbon around it.

one subject  
doing *one action*



Two pumpkins *wore* hats with coloured ribbons around them.

two pumpkins acting as  
one subject because they  
are doing the *same* action

Whoever or whatever is doing the action is the subject  
more than one person or thing can act as one subject



The moon *lit* the  
path to the house.

one thing doing the  
action = one subject



The windows of the house  
*lit* the path to the house.

more than one thing is doing the  
**same** action = one subject

The subject of a sentence is who or what is doing the action  
 a noun or a pronoun can be the subject of a sentence



Prepositional phrases can tell us **where** or **when** an action happened

Five owls

dangled

above the pumpkins.

subject = noun (owls)

verb

**where** the owls dangled

nouns are words that name people, places or things

pronouns are words that take the place of nouns

They

hooted

in the middle of the night.

subject = pronoun

verb

**when** the owls hooted



The subject of a sentence is who or what is doing the action  
 a noun or a pronoun can be the subject



nouns are words that name  
 people or things

pronouns are words that  
 take the place of nouns

The biggest pumpkin

hung

in the middle *of the branch.*

subject = noun

verb

two prepositional phrases

It


glowed

in the dark.

This is a pronoun that takes  
 the place of the noun  
 to become the subject:

verb

one prepositional phrase

reminder	Whoever or whatever is doing the action is the subject	
		
More than one person or thing can act as one subject		
One owl	wore	a pirate hat.
the subject because it is doing the action	action verb	
The two owls	enjoyed	the fancy dress party.
both owls act as one subject because they are both doing the same action	action verb	

## Reminder: a sentence must have two things

- 1 a sentence must have a **subject**
- 2 a sentence must have a main verb - *action verbs* are one type of main verb
- 3 a sentence might also have a prepositional phrase



A **spider** *hovered* above the owls.

- the prepositional phrase tells us where the spider hovered

The subject of a sentence is who or what is doing the action



prepositional  
phrases can tell us  
**where** or **when**  
an action happened

The bats in the sky

flew

in front of the moon.

subject

verb

**where** the bats flew

Two pumpkins

glowed

all through the night.

subject

verb

**when** the pumpkins glowed

Adjectives are word that describe nouns

Prepositional phrases can *act* like adjectives when they describe a noun



The boy

in the skeleton costume

told

a ghost story.

noun

subject

this prepositional phrase  
tells us *which boy*  
told a ghost story

verb

action

because the prepositional phrase describes a **noun** it is acting as an adjective and is called an adjectival phrase

A prepositional phrase can describe a noun in a sentence



The children	with hats on	played	a Halloween game.
noun subject	this prepositional phrase describes the <b>noun</b> children by identifying <i>which children</i> played a Halloween game	verb action	
	<b>describes this noun</b> ←←←←←←←←		

because the prepositional phrase describes a **noun** it is acting as an adjective and is called an adjectival phrase



Prepositional phrases that describe a noun are acting like an adjective so they are called adjectival phrases



The boy	with the two red horns	loved	Halloween parties.
noun	adjectival phrase	verb	
	<b>describes this noun</b> ←←←←←←←←		

a prepositional phrase that describes a **noun** will be an adjectival phrase

A prepositional phrase can describe a noun in a sentence

A prepositional phrase can **also** describe the verb (the action) in sentence



a prepositional phrase that describes a verb will be an adverbial phrase

Two of the girls

chatted

**about** the party.

subject

verb

this prepositional phrase describes the verb chatted



by telling us what the girls chatted about

the prepositional phrase starts with a **preposition** and describes the **verb** *chatted* so it is acting as an *adverb* and is called an adverbial phrase

A prepositional phrase can describe a verb in a sentence



a prepositional phrase might tell us more about the **subject** or the **verb** in a sentence

The Halloween party

started

at 7pm.

this is the subject of the sentence because it is doing the action

the action (the verb)

this prepositional phrase tells us more about the verb in the sentence because it tells us **when** the party started



because it tells us more about the verb it is acting as an adverb so it is called an adverbial phrase

subject

Prepositional phrases always start with a preposition, such as...

in

on

at

from

behind

next

through

over

above



a prepositional phrase is a group of words that adds more information about the subject or the verb in a sentence

The five friends

sat

**next to** each other.

this is the subject of this sentence

in a sentence with an action verb the subject of the sentence is who or what is doing the action

this is the action in the sentence so this is the verb

this prepositional phrase starts with a *preposition* and tells us more about the **verb** in the sentence because it tells us where the five friends sat so it is called an **adverbial** phrase

When a prepositional phrase describes a verb in a sentence it will be acting as an **adverb** to tell us WHERE, WHEN or HOW (1)



the prepositional phrase below tells us **where** the witch made eyeball soup

The witch

made

eyeball soup

in her dungeon.

this is the subject because this is who is doing the action

this is the action that the witch is doing so this is the verb

this prepositional phrase is acting as an adverb because it describes the verb *made* - it tells us **where** the witch made eyeball soup  
because it acts as an adverb this phrase is an **adverbial phrase**

When a prepositional phrase describes a verb in a sentence it will be acting as an **adverb** to tell us WHERE, WHEN or HOW (2)



the prepositional phrase below tells us **when** the witch made eyeball soup

The witch

made

eyeball soup

in the evening.

this is the subject because this is who is doing the action

this is the action that the witch is doing so this is the verb

this prepositional phrase is acting as an adverb because it describes the verb *made* - it tells us **when** the witch made eyeball soup - so it is an **adverbial phrase**

When a prepositional phrase describes a verb in a sentence it will be acting as an **adverb** to tell us WHERE, WHEN or HOW (3)



the prepositional phrase below tells us **how** the witch made eyeball soup

The witch

made

eyeball soup

with great care.

this is the subject because this is who is doing the action

this is the action that the witch is doing so this is the verb

this prepositional phrase is acting as an adverb because it describes the verb *made* - it tells us **how** the witch made eyeball soup  
because it acts as an adverb it is called an **adverbial phrase**



When a prepositional phrase describes a verb in a sentence it will be acting as an **adverb** to tell us WHERE, WHEN or HOW (4)



the where, when or how can be used in different parts of a sentence  
if they are used at the start of the sentence then a **comma** is needed after them

The witch made eyeball soup

in her new cauldron.

**where** the witch made eyeball soup

Every Halloween,


the witch made eyeball soup.


**when** the witch made eyeball soup

The witch stirred the eyeball soup

with a large wooden paddle.

**how** the witch stirred the eyeball soup

reminder	The subject of most sentences is a noun
<p><i>A prepositional phrases</i> can act like an <b>adjective</b> when it describes a noun</p>	
	
The owl	<i>with the bunch of balloons</i> loved parties.
noun	<p>the <i>prepositional phrase</i> is acting like an <b>adjective</b> to tell us which owl loved parties so it is called an <b>adjectival phrase</b></p>

reminder	Prepositional phrases can act like an <b>adverb</b> to describe the action	
prepositional phrases can tell us <b>when, where</b> or <b>how</b> an action was done		
		<p>the prepositional phrases below are acting as adverbs because they are describing the <i>action</i> in a sentence</p> <p>this makes them <b>adverbial phrases</b></p>
The Halloween Party <i>started</i> <b>at midnight.</b>	The party <i>started</i> <b>on a tall tree in the woods.</b>	The party <i>started</i> <b>with a very loud twit-twoo.</b>
<b>when</b> the party started	<b>where</b> the party started	<b>how</b> the party started

A *prepositional phrase* can act as an **adjective** or an adverb



The balloon with the skull and crossbones **burst**.

this prepositional phrase is used **before** the verb to identify which balloon is being talked about

- so it acts as an **adjective**

this prepositional phrase is adjectival because it describes a noun (balloon)



The owls **tied** the balloons onto a branch.

this prepositional phrase is used **after** the verb to describe where the owls tied the balloons

- so it acts as an adverb

this prepositional phrase is adverbial because it describes a verb (tied)

## Conclusion

You have learnt about sentences with a single action verb...

there are two more types of verb that are looked at in other lessons



helping verbs

The green balloon **was** *staring*.


(was is a **helping verb** that is linked to an *action* to describe what the green balloon *was doing*)



linking verbs

The orange balloon **was** fun.

(was is a **linking verb** that is linked to an adjective to describe what the balloon *was like*)

Conclusion	Every sentence must have both a subject and a main verb		
	<p>the subject is either who or what is doing the <i>action</i> in a sentence</p> <p>or</p> <p>the subject is who or what is being <i>described</i> in a sentence</p>		
there are three key types of verb			
Type 1	The witch <i>stirred</i> the cauldron.	main <i>action</i> verb	actions
Type 2	The witch <b>is</b> <i>stirring</i> the cauldron.	<i>action</i> + <b>helping</b> verb	
Type 3	The witch <b>is</b> green.	<b>linking</b> verb	description
this lesson has looked at sentences with a main action verb			