

1 Here's the Idea

Usually the subject is placed before the verb in a sentence. Sometimes, however, the subject appears after the verb.

Inverted Sentences

▶ **In an inverted sentence, the verb or part of the verb phrase is stated before the subject.** An inverted sentence can be used for emphasis or variety.

Usual Order: A leafless oak stood in the yard.

Inverted Order: In the yard stood a leafless oak.

Sentences Beginning with *Here* or *There*

▶ **When a sentence begins with *here* or *there*, the subject usually follows the verb.** Remember that *here* and *there* are almost never the subjects of a sentence.

Here comes the first sign of fall. There was a frost last night.

SUBJECT

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Subjects in Questions

In most questions, the subject appears between the words that make up the verb phrase.

Were the leaves scattered? Did you see them?

In questions that begin with the interrogative words *what*, *how many*, or *who* the subject often falls between the parts of a verb.

How many piles did all those leaves make?

In some questions, however, the interrogative word functions as the subject and comes before the verb.

Who raked them up? What happened?

Subjects in Commands

The subject of an imperative sentence is usually *you*. When the subject is not stated, *you* is understood to be the subject.

Request: (You) Please remember to write me this fall.

Command: (You) Don't forget! We're going to wish on the moon.