

1 Here's the Idea

The form of some sentences can make identifying their subjects difficult.

Inverted Sentences and Questions

- ▶ In inverted sentences and in many questions, subjects follow verbs. When writing such a sentence, identify the subject and make the verb agree.

HERE'S HOW Dealing with Verbs That Precede Subjects

Put the subject and verb in normal order.

Inverted Order

Was the longest tennis match in a Grand Slam tournament one lasting 5 hours 26 minutes?

Don't Stefan Edberg and Michael Chang hold that record?

Into the record book have gone Edberg and Chang because of that 1992 U.S. semifinal.

Normal Order

match was



Stefan Edberg and Michael Chang don't hold



Edberg and Chang have gone



Imperatives and *Here* and *There* Sentences

- ▶ The subject of an imperative sentence is almost always *you*.
(You) Think about the training and dedication that earned 17-year-old Bob Mathias the Olympic decathlon title in 1948.
- ▶ In sentences beginning with *here* or *there*, the subjects usually follow the verbs.

There have been no older female Olympic track-and-field medalists than the 37-year-old javelin thrower Dana Zátopková of Czechoslovakia.

Here is a feat of track history—Jesse Owens set six world records in 45 minutes in 1935.

Sentences with Predicate Nominatives

- ▶ **In a sentence containing a predicate nominative, the verb must agree with the subject, not the predicate nominative.**

Mentally screen out the predicate nominative and make the verb agree with the subject.

Team activities are an enjoyable and productive pastime.

Plural subject requires a plural verb.

One enjoyable and productive pastime is team activities.

Singular subject requires a singular verb.

For more information about predicate nominatives, see p. 36.