Lesson 14

The main word of the subject

In Lesson 5, we learned how to find the subject of a sentence. Do you remember? Write the rule here: Everything in between the beginning of the sentence and the X-Word is the subject.

Now it is time to look more closely at the subject. Specifically, we want to know what we can find when we look inside the subject box. When we look inside the subject box, there are lots of things we can find, but the most important thing is the **main word** of the subject. We will often find lots of words in the subject box, but every subject must have at least one main word. Of course, there are times when the subject will contain only one word.

- The main word of the subject is the word that the subject is actually about. We identify the main word of the subject by placing an asterisk (*) over it.
- It is possible to have more than one main word in the subject box, but if we do, we must have the word and to connect them.

The **main word** of the subject is the word that the subject is actually about.

Here are some examples:

*				X		
The dog wl	no is bo	arking at th	ne door	is my Chih	uahua,	Arnold.
* VnoS I have a ve	ery larg	ge cat name	ed Xena	, too.		
*	*	Vno5				
Arnold and	l Xena	protect me	e from in	ntruders.		

Lesson 14 Exercise 1

X

4

Directions: Identify the subject in each of the sentences below by drawing a box around it. Then, identify the main word in each subject by placing the main word symbol (*) over it.

1 * X

The people in the living room are my relatives from Boston.

2 X Vpp

I have not finished my composition.

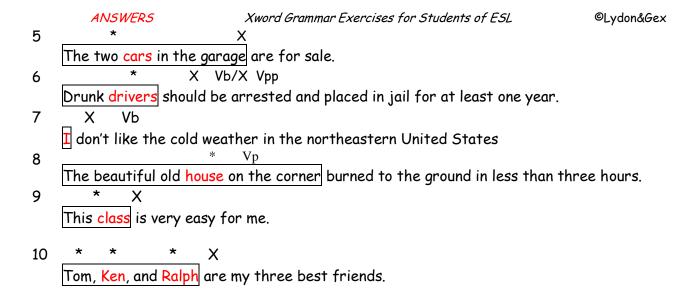
3 * X Vb

A computer can be a very useful tool for a student.

LaGuardia and Hostos are popular community colleges in the CUNY system.

Rev: bh2006

Page 41

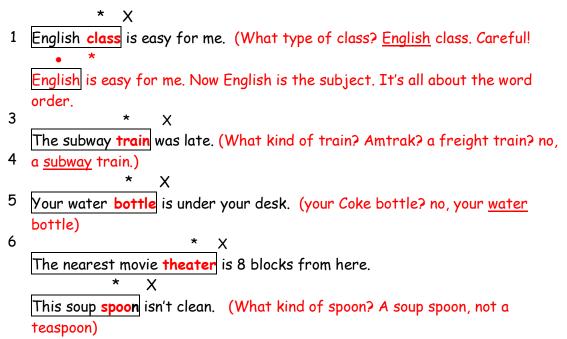


Note: A subject is always a noun. Sometimes we also use nouns as adjectives. Don't be confused. The subject will come last.

Television describes the type of program. Program is the main word.

Lesson 14 Exercise 2

Directions: Identify the subject in each of the sentences below by drawing a box around it. Then, identify the main word in each subject by placing the main word symbol (*) over it.



Rev: bh2006 Page 42