

# QUICK CLUES TO ENGLISH LBCC Developmental Studies Subjects

Most subjects are **nouns** (a word that names a person, a place, a thing, an idea, or an emotion):

<b>people</b>	<i>Tom, sister, President Lincoln</i>
<b>places</b>	<i>Portland, downtown, Oregon</i>
<b>things</b>	<i>desk, pencil, pretzel</i>
<b>ideas</b>	<i>honesty, future, intelligence</i>
<b>emotions</b>	<i>happiness, anger, fear</i>

Some subjects are **pronouns** (a word that substitutes for a noun):

**Common subject pronouns:** *I, you, she, he, we, they, it*

## Example:

Kathy attended her class reunion on Thursday.

- Q:** *Who* or *What* is the sentence about?  
or  
*Who* or *What* did something?  
**A:** Kathy (Kathy is the subject.)

*Note:* To identify the subjects, we have underlined them.

Kathy attended her class reunion on Thursday. (noun subject)  
She attended her class reunion on Thursday. (pronoun subject)

## Compound Subjects

When you have two or more subjects in an independent clause, you have a **compound subject**.

Jennifer and her mother speak Spanish.  
Jennifer or Bob will answer the phone.  
Jennifer, her mother, and her father speak Spanish.

## Special Subjects

### Action-word Subjects

Subjects that end in *-ing* are called **action-word subjects**.

Walking is good exercise.

### Unstated Subjects

When an independent clause gives a command or makes a request, the subject is often **unstated**. In this case, **you** is the unstated subject.

Go to the store.  
\* (You) go to the store.

### Inverted Subjects

Sometimes the subject follows the verb when the independent clause is a question or begins with *where*, *here*, or *there*.

Where are the children?  
Here are the children.  
There is my child.

## A Helpful Hint for Finding the Subject

Subjects always appear **outside** of **prepositional phrases**.

(Despite the weather), Jose is going skiing.

Patty (in the blue bathing suit) is a good swimmer.

(Down the road) raced the runners.