

Identifying the subject and object in a sentence

Most sentences are made up of a **subject** and an **object**.

The **subject** of the sentence is the person or thing doing the action.

The **object** is the person or thing having the action done to it.

The subject normally comes first in a sentence. The object usually comes second in the sentence, after the verb.

Many people feared a German attack.

subject verb

object

Underline the subject in the following sentences. (Hint: one sentence has several subjects.)

The Home Guard

- 1 On Friday May 10th, German soldiers attacked Belgium and the Netherlands.
- 2 The Government was worried Britain would be attacked next.
- 3 British troops were fighting in mainland Europe.
- 4 They needed men to protect Britain.
- 5 An urgent appeal was broadcast on the radio.
- 6 They asked for men to join the Local Defence Volunteers (The Home Guard).
- 7 Over one million men volunteered to join the Home Guard.
- 8 Farm workers, bakers, teachers, grocers, bank staff, transport workers joined the Home Guard.
- 9 Men who were too young or too old joined too.



Underline the object in the following sentences. (Hint: there is often more than one object.)

- 1 At the beginning, they had no uniforms and little equipment.
- 2 They had to use pikes instead of rifles.
- 3 The public donated weapons for them to use.
- 4 The Home Guard defended factories, beaches and sea fronts.
- 5 At night, they patrolled fields in which enemy paratroopers could land.
- 6 They couldn't beat well-trained German soldiers.
- 7 But they could slow the soldiers down until help arrived.
- 8 The Germans didn't invade Britain.
- 9 The Home Guard's main job was to capture German airmen whose planes had been shot down.

Have you seen Dad's Army – a comedy programme about the Home Guard?