

Read and Discover

- a. **Oral stories of gods and heroes** carried the beliefs of a culture from one generation to the next.
- b. Tell us the story of Gilgamesh.

The complete subject of sentence a. is in boldfaced type. Circle the most important word in the complete subject. Underline the verb that tells what the subject did.

Can you find a subject at the beginning of sentence b.? _____

Circle the word below that fits as the subject of sentence b.

Gilgamesh you tell story

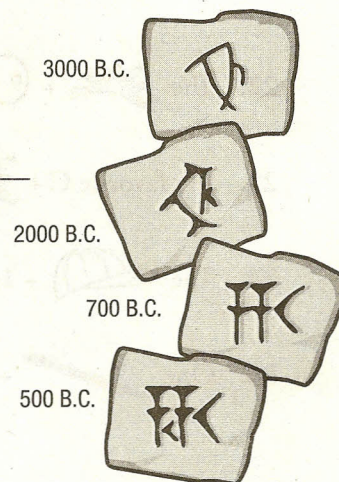
The **simple subject** is the most important word or words in the complete subject. It is a noun or pronoun and tells whom or what the sentence is about. The subject of a request or command (an imperative sentence) is usually not named. The person being spoken to, *you*, is the **understood subject**. The **simple predicate** is the most important word or words in the predicate. It is a verb. The simple predicate tells what the subject did or what was done to the subject. The simple predicate may also be a form of the verb *be*.

See Handbook Sections 11, 12

Part 1

Circle the simple subject in each sentence. If the understood subject is *you*, write *you* on the line. Underline the simple predicate.

1. The people of Sumeria developed a writing system more than 5,000 years ago. _____
2. Find the Euphrates River on a map. _____
3. Ancient Sumeria included the fertile lands near this river. _____
4. Some Sumerians owned large quantities of goods. _____
5. A record of these goods was often necessary for business purposes. _____
6. Sumerians drew marks or symbols on wet clay tablets for their records. _____
7. Some people became experts at the use of symbols. _____
8. These scribes could draw symbols for objects easily. _____
9. Ideas presented the scribes with a much greater challenge. _____
10. Draw a symbol for "life" or "freedom." _____
11. Your drawing must be understandable to other people. _____
12. Guess the Sumerian scribes' solution to this problem. _____
13. *Ti* meant both "arrow" and "life" in the Sumerian spoken language. _____
14. Clever scribes used a picture of an arrow as the symbol for both words. _____
15. Symbols eventually represented sounds such as *ti* instead of objects such as *arrow*. _____
16. People could then write any word in the Sumerian language. _____



The early symbol for *fish* changed over time.