What's the Subject? Where's the Action?

Underline the subject and circle the predicate in each sentence.

A Remarkable Legacy

Apple fans around the world were saddened to hear about Jobs's death. Apple added a feature to its website that allowed people to post their thoughts about his influence. Thousands of people replied.

Write a thought you might have posted. Underline the subject and circle the predicate in each sentence.

What's Next?

You are a technology genius. Write about how smartphones, tablets, laptops, and other electronic devices help us communicate. Then imagine the next BIG electronic device. Explain what it is and how it works.

- Do my sentences begin in different ways?
- Are my sentences of different lengths?
- Are my sentences grammatically correct (unless I broke rules for impact)?
- Have I used conjunctions such as *but*, *and*, and *so* to turn shorter sentences into longer ones?

Sentence Sense

The following sentences are from *Steve Jobs*. Underline simple sentences in blue, compound sentences in green, and complex sentences in red.

Steve learned about building things by watching his father. Paul Jobs enjoyed fixing up old cars in his garage. He showed his son the importance of making even the smallest details of a project perfect.

In high school, Steve joined a group of students interested in electronics. Engineers from the nearby Hewlett-Packard Company often presented their latest projects to the group. At one presentation, Steve saw a desktop computer for the first time.

Turn two simple sentences into a compound sentence using a conjunction such as *and*, *but*, *or*, or *so*.

Bonus! Create a complex sentence from one of the simple sentences.

From Statistics to Sentences

Transform one of the "True Statistics" in *Steve Jobs* into a well-developed paragraph. Explain the importance of the statistic, using many types of sentences to make your writing flow. Do additional research if necessary.

- Number of Apple II computers sold: around 16 million
- Price of an Apple II computer in 1977: \$1,298
- Total ticket sales for all of Pixar's feature films (as of 2012): \$3,031,274,537
- Number of songs downloaded from the iTunes store since its launch (as of 2011): more than
 10 billion
- Number of iPods sold (as of 2011): more than 275 million

- Did I include different kinds of sentences?
- Are some of my sentences complex?
- Are some of my sentences simple?
- Did I intermingle sentence types?

Switch It Up

With a partner, read the two-sentence start to a paragraph about the iPhone. Then continue the paragraph by writing three more sentences that don't necessarily begin with a subject and a predicate. Try different constructions, in other words.

iPhone Museum Display

You are a museum curator creating a display of groundbreaking inventions. Write a summary of the iPhone and its impact for a museum display of the device—from its first version to its latest. Begin your sentences in different ways.

- Is it easy to read the entire piece aloud?
- Do my sentences flow from one to the next?
- Do individual passages sound smooth when I read them aloud?
- Did I thoughtfully place different sentence types to enhance the main idea?

Fabulous Fragments

Turn these fragments into complete sentences.
1. Failure and great success
2. An amazing mind
3. Music in your pocket
My fragment:
My partner's fragment-to-sentence:

Rockin' the Rules

List ways to break the "rules" to make sentences flow, such as:

Some "sentences" are single words and used as exclamations. They are called interjections: Oh! My! WOW! Help!

And give examples, such as:

10 million iPhones sold in one day? WOW!

- Did I use fragments with style and purpose?
- Did I use informal language when it made sense to do so?
- Does my dialogue sound authentic?
- Did I try weaving in exclamations and single words to add emphasis?