

Grammar Explanation

Correcting missing and repeated subjects

To correct mistakes with missing or repeated subjects:

- Check that every verb in the sentence has a subject.
 - Incorrect: *I believe **is** important to educate all residents.*
 - Corrected: *I believe **it is** important to educate all residents.*

- Do not repeat the subject with a pronoun right after the subject.
 - Incorrect: ***The Chinese economy it** is growing rapidly.*
 - Corrected: ***The Chinese economy** is growing rapidly.*

- Make sure the subject of the sentence is a noun (e.g., *students*), a noun phrase (e.g., *many students who attend CUNY*), or a pronoun (e.g., *they*).
 - Incorrect: *The firefighter rushed to the building. Unfortunately, **was** not able to enter.*
 - Corrected: *The firefighter rushed to the building. Unfortunately, **he was** not able to enter.*

- The subject cannot be a prepositional phrase. Always use a noun phrase, a noun, a pronoun, or a filler (*there, here*) before the verb.
 - Incorrect: *In our community **are many children** who need childcare.*
 - Corrected: *In our community, **there are many children** who need childcare.*

Excerpted from: Sentence Structure: Exercise 5