

1. Giving the Action to the Characters

In clear sentences, the subjects are characters and the verbs are actions—of course, right? But this doesn't always happen. Here are some steps to clarifying your sentences by making sure your subjects are characters and your actions are verbs.

Ex: This article's ARGUMENT *reveals* that a NECESSITY *has arisen* for nationalization of health-care through the government.

Answer these questions:

#1. What are the verbs in this sentence?

reveals
has arisen

#2. What are the subjects? Who or what *reveals*, or *has arisen*?

ARGUMENT *reveals*
NECESSITY *has arisen*

#3. Who/what are the characters of the sentence? What is the sentence about?

ARTICLE
GOVERNMENT

#4. What are the actions?

argues
needs

Then...

Re-write the sentence so your characters are the subjects, and your actions are the verbs:

This ARTICLE *argues* that the GOVERNMENT *needs* to nationalize health-care.

2. Actions and Verbs

As in the example above, action words are not always verbs.

Action word:	Verb:
ARGUMENT	— <i>argues</i>
NECESSITY	— <i>needs</i>

Check your writing for action words that have been turned into nouns or adjectives, and turn them back into verbs.

Ex: This story IS PROOF of his kindness.
This story *proves* his kindness.

IS PROOF — *proves*

The SIMPLIFICATION of a sentence will assist in the CLARITY of your writing.
Simplifying a sentence will clarify your writing.