



Immediate Context: Lesson 1a

Determining Subjects and Compliments

Let's say we are trying to study Philippians and understand it the best we can. Here is an exercise to help you train your mind to seek context. When we say context we mean the idea of making sure we don't lose the meaning of smaller parts of a passage by ignoring the content around a particular verse. So, in this exercise read each passage a few times, then do a couple of things! First, try to

determine a **subject** for each paragraph. A word or two that describes the content that is read. Second, write **compliment** (a four to seven word phrase that says what this passage says about the subject). This first page is a sample of this with my own work so you can see what I mean. The next page has the subject and compliments blank for you to do your best!

Passage / Philippians 1	Subject	Compliment
<input type="checkbox"/> "Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:1–2, ESV)	Introductions...	Who wrote it, who it is to
"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you , always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God." (Philippians 1:3–11, ESV)	The Philippian Christians...	...Are loved by Paul and by God Himself
"I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear." (Philippians 1:12–14, ESV)	Paul...	...His imprisonment has advanced the gospel
" Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment." (Philippians 1:15–17, ESV)	Other people...	...have differing motives for sharing the gospel.

Immediate Context: Lesson 1b

Determining Subjects and Compliments



What is a subject?

- It is what the paragraph is talking about.
- It is typically a noun. One or two words will cover it.
- Highlight nouns in each paragraph to see if it helps you determine this, look for clues.

What is a Compliment?

- It describes what the paragraph says about the subject.
- What is the overall message about the subject shared here.
- Sometimes there are Sub-Compliments present.

Passage / James 1	Subject	Compliment
"James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings." (James 1:1, ESV)		
"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." (James 1:2-4, ESV)		
"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways." (James 1:5-8, ESV)		
"Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits." (James 1:9-11, ESV)		
"Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God,' for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death." (James 1:12-15, ESV)		
"Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures." (James 1:16-18, ESV)		

