**Ways of expressing the subject**

The Subject of a simple sentence can be expressed by:

1) A noun in the common case:

*The meeting is over.*

Occasionally a noun in the genitive case is used as a subject:

*Ada’s is a noble heart.*

2) A pronoun (personal, demonstrative, defining, indefinite, negative,

interrogative and the absolute form of possessive pronouns):

*You are not a bad fellow.*

*Nothing was said for a minute or two.*

*Theirs is not a very comfortable lodging.*

Note 1: The subject is often expressed by the indefinite personal pronoun *one* or the

personal pronouns *they, you, we* which refer not to a particular person but to people in

general. Note that *they* is used when the speaker is excluded, *one* when the speaker isincluded:

*They say the situation is going to change.*

*One can hardly live without friends.*

3) A substantivized adjective or participle:

*The wounded were taken good care of.*

4) A numeral (cardinal or ordinal):

*Two of the letters were from my uncle.*

5) An infinitive, infinitive phrase or construction:

*To understand is to forgive.*

*To be a rich man is not a bed of roses.*

6) A gerund, gerundial phrase or construction:

*Seeing is believing*

*Her being French might upset him a lot.*

*My coming here was a mistake.*

7) Any part of speech used as a quotation:

*His “How do you do” never sounds cordial enough.*

*On is a preposition.*

8) A group of words which is one part of the sentence, i.e. *a syntactically*

*indivisible group*:

*Their friend and defender was darkly groping toward the solution.*

9) A subject clause, which makes the whole sentence a complex one:

*What I need is a piece of good advice.*

*What girls of her sort want is a wedding ring*