## Lesson 5: Exercise 1

Directions: Find the X-Word in each of the following sentences and place an X over it. Then place a box around the subject and put an S over the box. Try to mark the forms of the verbs, too.

"This is Why Birds Fly in a V"

1. Why do migratory birds like ducks and geese fly in the shape of a V?

2. Why don't they fly in the shape of an I or a W?

3. People would like to understand this interesting habit.

4. It could help us design better airplanes.

5. Studies have shown that the V shape helps birds see each other.

6. Each bird in the V is located just far enough back and to the side.

5 X Vb 7. The next bird can see it in its side vision.

8. One study has discovered another reason for the V.

9. The birds were each given a GPS.

Explanation: the word "each" is a *middle word* (MW), an adverb that can come between the X-Word and the Verb. The most common middle word is not.



Lydon/Gex/Hart 1

	5	>	<							
10.	Each b	ird w	as exac	tly four fee	et behind	and at a	45 degr	ree angle	e from t	he bird
ahe	ad									
		5	VxS							
11.	The re	ar bir	rd rides	the front b	oird's air	and save	s energy	<b>'</b> .		
Exp	olanatio	n: we	e don't s	see the X-W	ord in se	ntence 1	1, but it	is there	e. <i>Does</i> i	S

"hidden" behind the VXS. It comes out when it is needed and leaves a Vb behind.

VXS Vb

The bird rides The bird does n't ride.

 $\underline{\text{mi}}$  gra to ry: migratory animals live one place in the summer and travel to another place for the winter

(adapted from The Week)

**Lesson 5 Exercise 2** Write three sentences with visible X-Words. Make the subjects at least 3 words long. Mark the subjects and verbs.

Lesson 5 Exercise 3 (Optional: for more advanced students)

- 1) Box the subjects.
- 2) Write the type of MAIN subject on the line. (Gerund, Singular, Plural, Uncountable)

3) Chose the correct form of the X-Word or Verb.

Singular

A bird (is | are) a wonderful machine.

Gerund Flying (is | are) not easy!

5

Plural Birds (use | uses) a lot of energy when they fly.

5

Plural Flying birds (saves | save) energy in a V shape.

S

Uncountable Science (use | uses) information like this.

5

Uncountable Nature (provides | provide) useful information.

5

Plural Scientists (has | have) not stopped learning from nature.



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