

Subject Variable in Sentences

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Tags and Sentences

- Tags in TMG have one or two people entered as Principals, and any number may be entered as Witnesses.
- Each of those people has an associated Sentence Structure, which controls how information from the Tag appears when a narrative report is created for that person. That person can be said to be the "subject" of that Sentence.
- The Sentence may direct that information from the Date, Place, and/or Memo fields of the Tag be included in the narrative. It may also output the name or other information about the subject.
- When there are other people entered in the Tag their names or other information may also output. Information about both the subject and other people are produced by Sentence Variables for people.

TMG Sentence Variables

Sentence Variables are used in Sentence Structures of Tags to specify how the various data fields in that Tag will be assembled into text for narrative reports. The Event Tag Variables can also be used in Memo fields.

TMG Sentence Variables

[P] was born <[D]> <[L]>

The letters in square brackets are variables representing where items recorded in various fields of the tag will be fit into the finished text. The variables in this example are:

- **[P]** stands for **Principal** - the person whose ID# is entered in the Tag. This variable will cause either the name of that person to be printed, or if this is not the first sentence of the report paragraph, the pronoun he or she.
- **[D]** stands for **Date** - the date entered in the Tag's Date field. The way the date is formatted is controlled by settings in the Report Definition for the particular report being generated, and in Preferences > Program Options > General.
- **[L]** stands for **Location** - the information entered in the several place fields on the Tag. The way the information is formatted is controlled by settings in the Report Definition for the particular report being generated.

Sentence Variables for People

Categories:

- *Position Variables*
- *Role Variables*
- *Subject Variables (TMG 9 and later)*

Some name variables substitute the pronoun "he" or "she" instead of giving the name, to avoid excessive repetition of the name in the text. The pronoun is used for sentences after the first in a paragraph, with certain exceptions.

New Subject Variable

TMG Version 9 saw the introduction of the Subject Variable. The Subject is the person about whom the current narrative is being constructed (the current Principal or the current Witness). These new variables are designed to make global and custom sentences much more flexible.

Subject Variable

- In TMG v9.01 and previous, some role variables have values that vary based on where they are used.
 - For example, in the sentence structure for a person with the role of "Usher", the variable [R:Usher] returns the name of the subject, i.e., the person whose narrative TMG is creating.
 - However, in the sentence structure for a person with the role of "Groom" (or any role other than Usher), [R:Usher] will return a list of everyone with that role. This inconsistency made it difficult to use role variables in sentences that were designed for more than one person or context. *So as of TMG v9.02, [R:xxxxx] will **always** return a list of everyone assigned to that role.*
- In order to replicate the older behavior, we recommend using the more-flexible [S] variable which was introduced in TMG v9.00. The [S] variable always produces the name of the current subject (i.e., the subject of the current paragraph), regardless of whether he/she is a principal or witness and regardless of his/her role. For this reason it is much more flexible than the [P], [W], or [R:xxxxx] variables.

Subject Variables

[S]	Subject, Full name
[S+]	Subject, Full name without pronoun substitution
[SS]	Subject, Possessive full name
[SG]	Subject, Given name
[SF]	Subject, First name
[SL]	Subject, Last name
[SA]	Subject, Age
[SE]	Subject, Exact Age
[SP]	Subject, Pronoun he/she
[SPP]	Subject, Possessive pronoun his/her
[SM]	Subject, Objective pronoun him/her
[SGS]	Subject, Possessive given name
[SFS]	Subject, Possessive first name
[SLS]	Subject, Possessive last name
[SFATH]	Primary name of the father of the Subject
[SMOTH]	Primary name of the mother of the Subject
[SPAR]	The parents of the Subject

Position Variables

The position variables identify the person whose name is to be output by where they are entered in the Tag. That is, they refer to a **Principal** or to a **Witness**. These are the original group of variables in TMG, and are the ones used in the default Sentences provided with the program. They may refer to either the subject of the Sentence, or to another person, as described below:

- **[P] Variables** - refer to the "current Principal," that is the subject of the Sentence. Used only in Sentences for Principals.
- **[PO] Variables** - refer to the "other Principal," that is the Principal who is not the subject of the Sentence. Used only in Sentences for Principals.
- **[P1] Variables** - refer to the person entered in the first Principal position in the Tag. That person may or may not be the subject of the Sentence. May be used in Sentences for either Principals or Witnesses.
- **[P2] Variables** - refer to the person entered in the second Principal position in the Tag. That person may or may not be the subject of the Sentence. May be used in Sentences for either Principals or Witnesses.
- **[W] Variables** - refer to the "current Witnesses," that is the subject of the Sentence. Used only in Sentences for Witnesses.
- **[WO] Variable** - refers to the "other Witnesses." When used in the Sentence of a Principal it refers to all the Witnesses. When used in the Sentence of a Witness it refers to all the Witnesses except the current Witness, or subject of the Sentence. Produces a list of names when more than one Witness is addressed.
- The four sets of Variables referring to Principals have variations for many of the types output listed in the previous section. The two Variables for Witnesses do not have these variations, though the [W+] Variable is available to suppress substitution of the pronoun "He" or "She."

Role Variables

- Each person in a Tag is assigned a Role. By default, all Principals are assigned the Role of Principal and all Witnesses are assigned the Role of Witness. Many Tag Types have other Roles available i.e. Marriage Tags have Roles of **Bride**, **Groom**, **Minister** etc. Users can create any number of custom Roles for each Tag Type.
- Role Variables allow a person or group of people to be referred to by the Role assigned to them. Role Variables can be used for the subject of the Sentence, but are better used when referring to other people in the Tag. When more than one person is assigned a given Role, the Role Variables will produce a list of all the people assigned that Role (in TMG 9.01 and prior, there are exceptions for certain Role Variables when used to refer to the subject of the Sentence). The use of a Role Variable to refer to the subject would be appropriate if you actually intend that the name of the subject be listed along with the names of others with the same Role, but that's not generally one's intent.
- Terry's [Using Roles](http://tmg.reigelridge.com/Roles.htm) group of articles, including a Roles Tutorial, describe how to use Roles and Role Variables in detail (<http://tmg.reigelridge.com/Roles.htm>).

Subject Variables

- Subject Variables always refer to the subject of this Sentence; that is the person whose narrative will be created by this Sentence. It does not matter whether this person is entered as a Principal or as a Witness, nor what Role may be assigned to this person.
- Since they always refer to the Subject of this Sentence they cannot be used to output the names or other information about other people in the Tag. Position or Role Variables must be used to refer to other people.

Subject Variables

- Subject Variables refer to attributes of the subject person such as the person's name or the person's age at the time of the event. The subject person is the person for whom the narrative is being constructed. For example, in an Individual Narrative for John Smith, the subject person is John Smith. His narrative may include events that are shared with other people, but only his sentences for those events are included in the narrative.
- The Subject Variable allows you to assign the same Role to a number of people, and in the Sentence for any one of them, get any name form, age, etc., for just that **one** person.

Other Variables

- Other variables return information about the subject, but they all have characteristics that make them unsuitable in some situations.
 - [P] refers to the subject, but only when the subject is a principal.
 - [W] refers to the subject, and works with both principals and witnesses, but cannot be used to refer to the attributes of the subject.
 - [R:role] refers to the subject if the subject is assigned the indicated role, but in other circumstances [R:role] refers to everyone with the indicated role.

Subject Variables

When referring to the subject, Subject Variables offer these advantages over the other groups of variables:

1. ***Additional Capabilities*** - especially for Witness Sentences. This Sentence that might be used for a child in a household in a Census Tag, who is entered as a Witness:

[SF] was enumerated in the [Y] census of [L] in the household of [SPP] parents, [P1] and [P2]

Using the two subject Variables shown in red above, would produce output like this:

John was enumerated in the 1880 census of York Co. Virginia, in the household of his parents, Thomas Smith and Mary Jones.

John was enumerated in the 1880 census of York Co. Virginia, in the household of **his** parents, Thomas Smith and Mary Jones.

- The First or Given name is not possible with the position Variable [W], which does not have such variations. The Role Variable [RF:*rolename*] could be used only if there was but a single person assigned that Role. Otherwise the names of all people assigned that Role would be listed.
- Pronoun "his" or "her" is similarly not possible with a position Variable, and can only be created with a Role Variable if only a single person is assigned that Role. Pronouns can be entered as text if both male and female Sentences are created, but the subject Variable allows use of only a **single** Sentence for the Role.

The Subject Variables include variations to produce all the varieties of name parts, possessives, pronouns, age, and parent names offered for any of the Variable groups, and more variations than many other sets of Variables.

Subject Variables (cont)

- 2. *Roles Usable for either Principals or Witnesses*** - are simpler and more reliable when Subject Variables are used to refer to the subject of the sentence. The Position Variables that can be used for the subject of the sentence are intended for sentences for either Principals or Witnesses, but not both. Role Variables risk the output of lists of people when only the name of the subject is intended (in TMG 9.01 and prior, there were exceptions for certain Role Variables when used to refer to the subject of the sentence).
- 3. *Refer to One of Several People with a Role*** - which is not possible with Role Variables (in TMG 9.01 and prior, there were exceptions for certain Role Variables when used to refer to the subject of the sentence), offers limited options with position Variables.

Usage

If you sometimes use Role Variables to refer to the subject, you can use Subject Variables instead. So, for example, if you have this sentence for the role "Reverend":

[R:Reverend] performed the ceremony ...

Change it to this:

[S] performed the ceremony ...

The recommendation above only applies to the sentence for the given role. So, you make the change above in the sentence for the Reverend role only. To refer to the reverend in the sentence for someone other than the reverend, you continue to use [R:Reverend].

Advantages

1. It's slightly easier to use [S] because there are less characters to type and because you do not have to think about which role's sentence you are editing.
2. When you go back to make a change to several of the roles of the Marriage tag, your focus is on the change you are making (i.e. adding a reference to the Reverend role to several Marriage tag role sentences), and whether [R:Bride] refers to the subject or someone else is not top-of-mind. [S] is more obvious in that case: you do not have to think about which role you are editing to know what [S] represents. the advantage is subtle but these have a way of adding up.
3. It's a solution that works for a variable number of instances. It is often the case that a solution that works for a variable number is simpler and more flexible.
4. Right now, [R:Bride] seems unambiguous. It refers to the one and only bride, and in the sentence for the Bride role, it refers to the one and only subject. Six months from now, a female relative marries her female partner, and there are two brides.

Note: When there is only one person assigned to a role, then the output of [S] and [R:role] will be the same.

Example

- **[W]** was an usher at the wedding of **[P1]** <and **[P2]**> <**[D]**> <**[L]**>

Results in: **He** was an usher at the wedding of Frederick Henry Osborn and Margaret Louisa Schieffelin on 10 Jan 1914 at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church.

- **[SF]** was an usher at the wedding of **[P1]** <and **[SPP]** sister **[P2]**> <**[D]**> <**[L]**>

Results in: **William** was an usher at the wedding of Frederick Henry Osborn and **his sister** Margaret Louisa Schieffelin on 10 Jan 1914 in Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church

Example

- The List of United States Citizens on the S.S. Resolute sailing from Southampton, August 31st, 1932, arriving at Port of New York, September 8th 1932 included **him, [WO]**.
Results in: The List of United States Citizens on the S.S. Resolute sailing from Southampton, August 31st, 1932, arriving at Port of New York, September 8th 1932 included **him, William Jay Schieffelin Jr, Ann Louise Schieffelin and Annette Markoe.**
- The List of United States Citizens on the S.S. Resolute sailing from Southampton, August 31st, 1932, arriving at Port of New York, September 8th 1932 included **[SM] and [SPP] family members [WO]**
Results in: The List of United States Citizens on the S.S. Resolute sailing from Southampton, August 31st, 1932, arriving at Port of New York, September 8th 1932 included **him and his family members William Jay Schieffelin Jr, Ann Louise Schieffelin and Annette Markoe.**

Example

- The List of United States Citizens on the S.S. Resolute sailing from Southampton, August 31st, 1932, arriving at Port of New York, September 8th 1932 included [SM] and [SPP] family members [WO]
 - The List of United States Citizens on the S.S. Resolute sailing from Southampton, August 31st, 1932, arriving at Port of New York, September 8th 1932 included him and his family members William Jay Schieffelin Jr, Ann Louise Schieffelin and Annette Markoe.
 - The List of United States Citizens on the S.S. Resolute sailing from Southampton, August 31st, 1932, arriving at Port of New York, September 8th 1932 included her and her family members William Jay Schieffelin Jr, William Jay Schieffelin III and Ann Louise Schieffelin.

Example

- Tom was an usher ...
Dick was an usher ...
Harry was an usher ...

You would use: **[SF]** was an usher...

- Tom, Dick, and Harry were ushers ...

You would use: **[RF:Usher]** were ushers

Example

Simplifying sentences:

[RS:Groom2nd] second marriage was to <[R:Bride]><[R:Bride2nd]><[R:Bride3rd]>
<[R:Bride4th]> <[PARO]> <[D],><[LD],><at [CITY], ><[COUNTY], ><[STATE]>

This would work exactly the same:

[SPP] second marriage was to [PO] <[PARO]> <[D],> <[LD],><at [CITY], >
<[COUNTY], ><[STATE]>

[SPP] returns "his" or "her" based on the gender of the subject. You can refer to the bride via [PO] because the groom must be a principal, and the bride must be the other principal.

Result:

His second marriage was to Annie Ellen Oliver, daughter of Harry Thomas Oliver and Sarah Condron, on 29 Jun 1940, at St Catharines, in Lincoln County, in Ontario.

Conclusion

- Each group of Variables has its place, with different strengths and weaknesses.
 - **Position Variables**, especially the traditional [P]< and [PO]> construction are well designed for Tag Types in which one or two people will have the dominant role, such as Birth, Marriage, and Death Tags. In such Tag Types use of the [P1] and [P2] Variables work well in Witness Sentences to refer to the Principals.
 - **Role Variables** are very helpful when referring to people or groups of people other than the subject, especially in Tag Types which are likely to include people with several distinct roles.
 - **Subject Variables** offer helpful flexibility in any Tag Type when referring to the subject of the Sentence.