

Parts of the Sentence



Simple Subjects and Simple Predicates

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A *sentence* is a group of words that expresses a complete thought.

- Every *sentence* has two basic parts, a **subject** and a **predicate**
 - The **subject** is the part of the sentence that names whom or what the sentence is about
 - The **predicate** is the part of the sentence that says something about the subject

3• Both the **subject** and the **predicate** can consist of more than one word

- The *simple subject* is the key **noun** or **pronoun** that tells what the sentence is about.

- The *simple predicate* is the **verb** or **verb phrase** that expresses an action or a state of being about the subject of the sentence.

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- *Garth Brooks will perform.*
- *Dogs were barking.*
- *Michael Jordan jumped.*
- *Things change.*

Find the *simple subject* by asking who?
or what?

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Garth Brooks, a famous singer, *will* almost certainly *perform* at the party tonight.

Dogs up and down the street *were* constantly *barking* at the fighting cats.

Practice exercises page 131-132.

6 *Complete Subjects* and *Complete Predicates*

In most sentences, the addition of other words and phrases to the simple subject and the simple predicate expands and or modifies the meaning of the sentence.

- 7 • The complete subject consists of the *simple subject* and all of the words that modify it.
- The complete predicate consists of the *simple predicate*, or verb, and all of the words that modify it or complete its meaning.

8 • Talented Garth Brooks will perform his biggest hits.

- Large dogs were barking at strangers on the sidewalk.

- The athletic Michael Jordan jumped above the rim.

- Many things change daily.

Practice exercises page 133.

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Compound Subjects and Compound Predicates

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A compound subject is made up of two or more simple subjects that are joined by a conjunction and have the same verb.

- *And* and *or* are most commonly used to join the subjects in a compound subject
 - Tomatoes and carrots are healthy vegetables.
- Correlative conjunctions may also be used to join the compound subjects
 - Neither tomatoes nor peppers grow underground.

A *compound predicate* (or compound verb) is made up of two or more **verbs** or **verb phrases** that are joined by a **conjunction** and have the same **subject**.

- **Maria** **opened** her book, **grabbed** a pencil, **and** **started** her homework.
- The **auxiliary verb** may or may not be repeated
- A sentence may have both a *compound subject* and a *compound predicate*

Order of **Subject** and **Predicate**

In English the subject comes before the verb in most sentences. There are exceptions to this normal word order:

- In *commands* and *requests*, the **subject** is usually **not stated**.
- The **predicate** is the **entire** sentence.
- The **pronoun** you is **understood** to be the **subject**.

- *Questions* frequently begin with a **verb** or **helping verb** or the words who, whom, what, when, where, why, or how.
- A sentence written in *inverted order*, in which the **predicate** comes before the **subject**, serves to add emphasis to the subject.

- A word in a **prepositional phrase** is **never** the **subject** of a sentence
- The word here or there is **never** the **subject**

You can find the **subject** in an inverted sentence by asking *who?* or *what?* about the **predicate**.

Practice exercises page 137.

Complements

A **complement** is a word or a group of words that completes the meaning of a verb.

There are four kinds of **complements**:

- **Direct objects**
- **Indirect objects**
- **Object complements**
- **Subject complements**

Direct Objects

A **direct object** answers the question *what?* or *whom?* after an **action verb**.

- The **subject** of the sentence usually performs the action of the **verb**
- The action may be directed toward or received by someone or something
- **Direct objects** are **nouns, pronouns, or words acting as nouns**
- They may be *compound*
- They require **transitive verbs**

Carlos served **dinner**.

Maria admires **him** deeply.

Carlos served a Mexican **dinner** and a fabulous **dessert**.

Indirect Objects

An **indirect object** answers the question *to whom? for whom? to what? or for what?* after an **action verb**.

- A sentence can have an **indirect object** only if it has a **direct object**
- An **indirect object** always comes between the **verb** and the **direct object**
- If you add the word *to* or *for* in front of an **indirect object**, you haven't changed the meaning of the sentence

Tyrone sent **me** a **letter**.

Kim saved **Rosa** and **Manuel** seats.

Object Complements

An object complement answers the question *what?* after a **direct object**. It completes the meaning of the **direct object** by identifying or describing it.

- Object complements occur only in sentences with **direct objects**
- An object complement usually follows a **direct object**
- It may be an **adjective**, a **noun**, or a **pronoun**

- Object complements occur only in sentences containing these or similar **verbs** that have the general meaning of “make” or “consider”:

appoint consider make render call elect

name think choose find prove vote

Residents **find** the park peaceful. (**adjective**)

Maya **appointed** me spokesperson and treasurer.
(**noun**)

My **grandmother** **considers** the property hers.
(**pronoun**)

Subject Complement

(Predicate Nominative, Predicate Adjectives)

A subject complement follows a **subject** and a **linking verb** and identifies or describes the **subject**.

- There are two kinds of **subject complements**
 - The first renames the **subject**
 - The second describes the **subject**

22 A predicate nominative is a **noun** or a **pronoun** that follows a **linking verb** and points back to the **subject** to rename it or to identify it further.

Sopranos are singers.

The star of the opera was she.

Many current opera stars are Italians or Spaniards.

23 A predicate adjective follows a **linking verb** and points back to the **subject** and further describes it.

Firefighters **are** brave.

Firefighters **must be** extremely careful.

Most **firefighters** **are** dedicated and hardworking.

24 I feel very confident.

My sister appeared angry.

The spoiled milk smelled bad.

Heidi seemed intelligent and efficient.

The trumpet sounded sour.

The soup tasted salty.

Overnight the maple leaves all turned red.

Practice exercises page 141-142.