

Complete Subjects and Predicates

* Every sentence has two main parts: a **complete subject** and a **complete predicate**.

The **complete subject** includes all words that tell who or what the subject is.

Example: Most birds | can fly.

The **complete predicate** includes all words that state the action or condition of the subject.

Example: Most birds | can fly.

Directions: Draw a line between the **complete subject** and the **complete predicate** in the following sentences.

Example: The dusty old car | won't start anymore.

- 1) I want a new car.
- 2) James is nice.
- 3) The sun is moving.
- 4) Max wrote the letter.
- 5) The letter was written by Max.
- 6) The farmers are plowing the field.
- 7) Billy Reynolds is an amazing baseball player.
- 8) The storm clouds are getting darker.
- 9) Dogs, cats, and turtles make the best pets.
- 10) The stern judge ruled that the defendant was not guilty.
- 11) Only I am able to know what I am thinking.
- 12) All of the townspeople ran from the burning building.
- 13) His broken leg will heal in three months.
- 14) The saber toothed tiger is a good example of an extinct predator.

Directions: Now try to write two sentences of your own. Draw a line between the **complete subject** and the **complete predicate**.

1) _____

2) _____

Complete and Simple Subjects and Predicates

- 15c.** The *simple subject* is the main word or word group that tells *whom* or *what* the sentence is about. The *complete subject* consists of the simple subject and any words or word groups used to modify the simple subject.
- 15d.** The *simple predicate*, or *verb*, is the main word or word group that tells something about the subject. The *complete predicate* consists of the verb and all the words used to modify the verb and complete its meaning.

EXERCISE A In each of the following sentences, underline the complete subject once and the simple subject twice.

Example 1. The widespread use of computer technology has changed work.

- Computer programs frequently replace pencil and paper, slide rules, and small calculators.
- They can provide rapid analysis and impact reports on changing data.
- With easy-to-use Internet resources and communications, data can be shared more quickly.
- The result of using computers for many tasks is usually a savings in time and money.
- All of this technology produces much more efficient and productive work environments.

EXERCISE B In each of the following sentences, underline the complete predicate once and the simple predicate twice.

Example 1. With industry moving toward high technology, not only businesses but also their clients have been affected.

- Ivette Carcas, an architect from Florida, has seen a number of changes in her field.
- Pencil sketches were previously the norm.
- Now, she constantly uses computer-aided design (CAD) programs.
- These programs give her more flexibility.
- Because of this new resource, clients sometimes pressure the professional for a quick answer.
- Without thorough discussion, the result could be unrealistic expectations or incorrect plans.
- Another Florida architect, Miguel Rodríguez, would agree with Ms. Carcas's assessment of computer technology in their industry.
- According to Mr. Rodríguez, thought processes for problem solving cannot be rushed.
- The client's desires must be balanced with the schedule.
- Local regulations and building codes also must be considered in any design.

Name: _____

Simple Subject

Definition: The simple subject is the common noun, proper noun, or pronoun that the verb acts upon. The subject is the “do-er” of the sentence. It tells whom or what the sentence is about.

Examples: A *nurse* assisted the patient.

Simple Subject

The police officer helped prevent the accident.

Complete Subject

When additional words help name or describe the simple subject, this is known as a complete subject.

Hints

To find the simple subject of the sentence, first identify any prepositional phrases and eliminate the nouns and pronouns found in these phrases from consideration. The simple subject of the sentence is not part of a prepositional phrase. Frequently, in imperative sentences, the simple subject *you* is implied (suggested, not stated).

Practice

- **Circle** the simple subjects found in the story below. Add in any implied subjects.

Vacationing in Mexico, an experienced traveler will visit three famous cities. Tasco, known as the “Silver City” because of its rich silver mines, welcomes thousands of tourists each summer to see its timeless architecture. The cathedral impresses visitors from around the world. A second city, Guadalajara, shows off its rich colonial heritage. Having one of the most beautiful town squares, this city gives any traveler a complete history of Mexico. If given the opportunity, do not hesitate to visit the capital. Mexico City has many sites of archeological importance, including pyramids of the Aztec Empire. A trip to Mexico connects the traveler with his or her historical roots, as a North American.

- What is the complete subject in the first sentence of the above story?

Application

Compose two sentences. In the first, circle the simple subject; in the second, circle the complete subject.

Name: _____

Simple Predicate

Definition: The simple predicate is the verb that acts upon the subject of the sentence. It does the work of the “do-er” of the sentence. The simple predicate shows a physical or mental action or it describes a state of being. When additional words help describe the simple predicate, this is known as a complete predicate. The complete predicate consists of the rest of the sentence other than the subject.

Examples: Michael *hurt* his hand.

Simple Predicates

She *had become* a young lady.They *should have listened* to me.An angry man *tried to run me off the road*. Complete Predicate**Hints**

To find the simple predicate, first identify the subject and ask “What?” The answer to this question should be the predicate. The simple predicate usually follows the subject in a sentence. However, it can be placed before the subject in a question (*Was it your mother’s purse?*), in an implied (suggested, not stated) sentence (*Look out!*), or in a phrase or clause at the beginning of a sentence to add special emphasis (*Even more interesting was the fact that she knew it would probably rain*).

Practice

Underline the simple subjects and [bracket] the simple predicates found in the story below.

Ice-cream always has pleased young and old alike as a favorite summertime dessert. One ice-cream that pleases many is neapolitan. This treat has chocolate, strawberry, and vanilla all in one. Rocky Road delights children of all ages with small bits of marshmallows and nuts in a rich chocolate ice-cream. For some, the nuts or marshmallows may cause an allergic reaction. A creamy double-scoop on a sugar or waffle cone tastes great. Watch out! Eating too much ice-cream can be an addictive behavior.

Application

Compose your own sentence with a simple predicate. Underline the subject and bracket the simple predicate.

Compose your own sentence with a complete predicate. Underline the subject and bracket the simple predicate.

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Subjects and Predicates

- 15b.** Sentences consist of two basic parts: *subjects* and *predicates*. The *subject* tells *whom* or *what* the sentence is about. The *predicate* tells something about the subject.

	SUBJECT		PREDICATE
	We		laughed.
	SUBJECT		PREDICATE
	Each of the books		must be logged in.
PREDICATE		SUBJECT	PREDICATE
How much has		your peach crop	produced this year?

EXERCISE A

In each of the following sentences, identify the underlined word group as the subject or the predicate of the sentence by writing above the word group *S* for *subject* or *P* for *predicate*.

Example 1. Some of the worst disasters in history have been caused by volcanic eruptions.

- Volcanoes and volcanic eruptions have long been a source of fascination and terror.
- They have even played a role in the religions of many cultures.
- Have scientists given the world any explanations of volcanic activity?
- On November 14, 1963, a volcano created a new island off the coast of Iceland.
- Have articles about volcanoes or geothermal energy appeared in any magazines lately?
- From the internal heat of the earth comes geothermal energy.
- In Iceland geothermal energy is released by the internal heat of the earth.
- In 1980, the volcanic eruption of Mount St. Helens shocked the world.
- Because of geologists' efforts to predict the eruption, loss of life was minimal.
- Eyewitnesses of the event will not soon forget the sight.

EXERCISE B

In each of the following sentences, underline the subject once and the predicate twice.

Example 1. Pliny the Younger, a Roman writer and statesman, wrote descriptions of volcanoes.

- Have you read this article on central Italy and Mount Vesuvius?
- Pliny the Younger was the first to describe the various stages of an eruption.
- In addition, Pliny described the height of the cloud of ash above Vesuvius as well as the effects of the eruption on people.
- Mount Vesuvius is situated a little over five kilometers northwest of Pompeii.
- Part of the caldera around Vesuvius, known as the Somma Rim, was formed approximately 17,000 years ago.