

Subject and Predicate

To write a complete sentence, you must have a subject and a predicate. A *subject* means the person, place, or thing the sentence is about. The *predicate* tells something about the subject.

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

	Subject	Predicate
Person	Our science teacher	organized the fair.
Place	Florida's beaches	attract many tourists.
Thing	Jamie's car	is ten years old.

Complete and Simple Subjects

The *complete subject* of a sentence usually contains more than one word.

A *complete subject* includes all the words used to identify the person, place, thing, or idea that the sentence is about.

To find a complete subject, ask yourself *Whom?* or *What?* the sentence is about.

The salesperson in the store explained the computer.
[Whom is this sentence talking about? Who explained the computer? *The salesperson in the store* is the complete subject.]

The bananas on the table aren't ripe yet.
[What is this sentence talking about? What isn't ripe yet? *The bananas on the table* is the complete subject.]

Directions: Underline the complete subject in each sentence.

1. A huge grizzly bear has the speed of an average horse.
2. The largest elephant in Africa may weigh over seven tons.
3. The ancient Egyptians trained baboons as waiters.
4. The opossum dates back 45 million years.
5. A panda weighs about four ounces at birth.
6. The greyhound can run over 40 miles per hour.
7. The one-ton African rhinoceros is easily tamed.
8. Cattle branding was practiced 4,000 years ago.
9. Herds of camels roamed Alaska 12,000 years ago.
10. The ancestors of the modern horse were only a foot tall.

Simple Subjects. Within each complete subject, one word directly answers the question *Who?* or *What?*

In the following examples, the simple subjects are in bold type:

The **athletes** on the field stood at attention.

The lone gray **horse** galloped across the field.

Sometimes a complete subject and a simple subject are the same:

Luis Sanchez will sing a solo at the concert.

[*Luis Sanchez* is the simple subject. Both words are considered one name.]

He will return my science book.

Everyone completed the assignment.

Underline the complete subject in each sentence. Then circle each simple subject.

1. My friends from school met me at the football game.
2. Nearsighted penguins mistake stones for their eggs.
3. Pigs always sleep on their right side.
4. The back wheel on my bicycle is loose.
5. Seven different colors are found in the human eye.

Complete and Simple Predicates

A complete predicate includes all the words that tell what the subject is doing, or that tell something about the subject.

To find a complete predicate, first find the subject. Then ask, *What is the subject doing?* Or *What is being said about the subject?*

The wild horses **roamed across the prairie.** [The subject is horses. What did the horses do? They roamed across the prairie.]

Finding Complete Predicates

Underline the complete predicate in each sentence.

1. The Statue of Liberty stands in New York Harbor.
2. The tablet in her left hand reads, "July 4, 1776."
3. Seven rays surround her head.
4. Broken chains lie at her feet.
5. She weighs 225 tons.
6. Her index finger extends eight feet.

Simple Predicate

A simple predicate, or verb, is the main word or phrase in the complete predicate.

In the following examples, the verb is in bold.

The airplane **landed** safely in the field.

My brother **is** a fine soccer player.

Verbs that tell something about a subject are sometimes hard to find because they do not show action. Following is a list of common verb forms that are used to make a statement about a subject.

Verbs That Make Statements

am is are was were be being been

Directions: **Underline** the complete predicate in each sentence. Then **CIRCLE** each verb.

1. Hank Aaron hit 755 home runs during his career.
2. My cat chases the neighbor's dog every morning.
3. That camera is the least expensive model.
4. The United States paid Russia only two cents an acre for Alaska.
5. A cow gives less milk in hot weather.
6. The school board met for five hours last night.
7. Both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson were six-footers.
8. The principal conducted the first assembly.
9. Luther Crowell invented the paper bag in 1867.
10. The temperature fell ten degrees last night.