

Exercise 1

Use each of the following nouns as the simple subject of a sentence. When you are finished, go back and circle the complete subject.

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| airport | chocolate |
| magazines | dolphin |
| Vermont | skyscraper |
| telescope | peninsula |
| engineer | sunflowers |

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Pronouns

A **pronoun** takes the place of a noun. You will use pronouns to avoid repetition in your writing.

Unlike nouns, pronouns do not use apostrophes to show possession. When a pronoun has an apostrophe, it is a contraction. For example, *its* shows possession, but *it's* is a contraction that means "it is."

Look at these examples.

Don't judge a book by **its** cover.
It's a small world.

The dog wagged **its** tail.
It's going to rain tomorrow.

Exercise 1

Improve this paragraph by replacing nouns with pronouns. Cross out the noun you wish to replace and write the pronoun above it. You will not be able to replace every noun. Read the paragraph aloud; it will help you decide which nouns you should replace with pronouns.

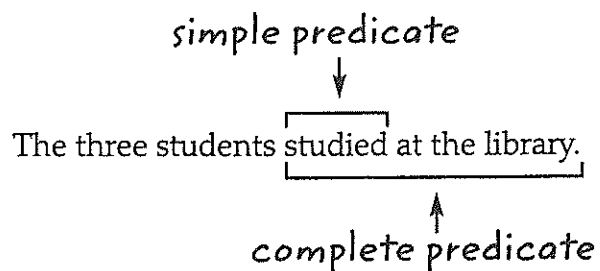
Amelia Mary Earhart was ten years old when Amelia saw Amelia's first plane at a state fair. The plane was made of wood and the plane's wings were made of rusty wire. The plane did not interest Earhart. Earhart did not become interested in planes until she saw stunt pilots fly almost ten years later. Earhart and Earhart's friend were watching the planes when one pilot swooped down on Earhart and Earhart's friend. "I did not understand it at the time," Earhart said, "but I believe that little red airplane said something to me as it swished by."

Predicates

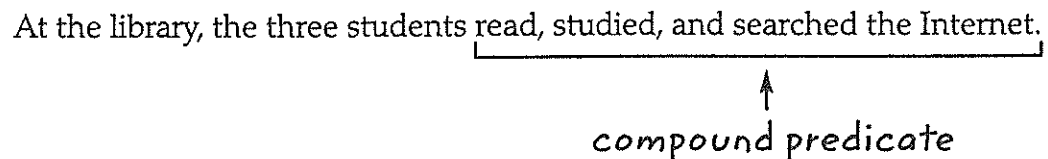
A complete sentence must have a subject. It must also have a **predicate**, which gives some information about the subject. The most important word in the predicate is the verb. The verb will take different forms, depending on the subject.

I talk
You (singular) talk
He/she/it talks
We talk
You (plural) talk
They talk

The **simple predicate** is the verb. The **complete predicate** contains the verb and all of its modifiers.



A predicate may have more than one verb. These are called **compound predicates**.



Exercise

Use the following verbs in sentences. You may add endings such as *-ed*, *-ing*, or *-s* and/or helping verbs such as *am*, *is*, *was*, *will*, *shall*, *have*, *has*, or *had*.

invent travel accept paint vanish
complain insist organize intervene decrease

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____
