

Writing Sentences

Every day we need to communicate with other people. Sometimes we talk to express our ideas. Other times we write. There are other reasons to talk and write. We may need to write something down so that we can remember it. We may want to make a record of certain kinds of information. We communicate better with other people and ourselves if we understand our language better.

In Chapter 1, you will learn some basic rules about writing sentences.

Goals for Learning

- ▶ To identify complete sentences and sentence fragments
- ▶ To capitalize the first word and use end punctuation marks in sentences
- ▶ To identify the subject and predicate in simple sentences
- ▶ To recognize declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences

Sentence

A group of words that expresses a complete thought

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

EXAMPLE

Angela Choy is a high school student.

What sport does she enjoy most?

Get to practice now!

Sentence fragment

A group of words that does not express a complete thought

A group of words that does not express a complete thought is called a **sentence fragment**.

EXAMPLE

Plays baseball in the spring.

This group of words does not express a complete thought. It is a sentence fragment. What you need to know is “Who plays baseball in the spring?” *Armando* plays baseball in the spring.

Writing Tip

You can use sentence fragments in very informal writing, such as a quick note to a friend or a list. But for most assignments, letters, and other more formal situations, always write complete sentences.

Activity A Read each group of words and write it on your paper. Write *S* if the group of words is a sentence. Write *F* if the group of words is a fragment.

- 1) Emily Watson likes to draw.
- 2) After school in the park.
- 3) Since she was seven years old.
- 4) Her favorite kind of paint is watercolor.
- 5) For her birthday she received a set of oil paints.

Activity B Write each group of words from Activity A that you marked *F* on your paper. Add words to each one to make it a complete sentence. Begin each sentence with a capital letter. Put a period at the end of each sentence.

For each item, write *S* on your paper if the group of words is a sentence. If the group of words is not a sentence, write it on your paper and add words to make it a complete sentence.

- 1) Emily likes to play the clarinet.
- 2) She is in the band at school.
- 3) Practices with the band three days a week.
- 4) She practices at home every night.
- 5) Good at playing the clarinet.
- 6) Michelle and Karl are in the band with Emily.
- 7) The band concert coming up soon.
- 8) Practice their songs.
- 9) The music not easy to learn.
- 10) A lot of fun playing their instruments.

Write each of the following groups of words on your paper. Add words to make each one a complete sentence.

- 11) Nathan outdoors.
- 12) To Yellowstone National Park.
- 13) Camp out near Old Faithful.
- 14) A book about Yellowstone.
- 15) Find out about caving sites in the park.

Capital letter

The uppercase form of a letter such as A

When you write a sentence, there are two important rules to follow.

Rule 1 Capitalize the first word in the sentence. A **capital letter** is the uppercase form of a letter. The capital letter tells the reader that you are beginning a new idea.

EXAMPLE

Some people like to read about the past.

They like history books.

You might like to read a book about a president.

End punctuation

A mark at the end of a sentence that tells the reader where a sentence ends:

- a period (.)
- a question mark (?)
- an exclamation mark (!)

Rule 2 Put an **end punctuation** mark at the end of the sentence. An end punctuation mark can be a **period**, a **question mark**, or an **exclamation mark**. It tells the reader where the sentence ends.

EXAMPLE

George Washington was the first president of the United States.

Do you know who the second president was?

Yes, I do!

Writing Tip

Be sure you leave a small space after end punctuation in each sentence you write. The space tells the reader that one thought is ending and another is beginning.

Activity A Find four sentences in each paragraph below. List them on your paper. Capitalize the first word in each sentence. Use an end punctuation mark at the end of each sentence.

the library has many history books some students like to read about the past other people like to read about the future those books are in the science fiction section

do you enjoy music many people listen to music on the radio others play their own favorite CDs what is your favorite album

Find the sentences in each paragraph. Write them on your paper. Capitalize the first word in each sentence. End each sentence with correct punctuation.

- 1) blues music can be very relaxing the guitar is one instrument in blues many people write their own blues music the songs of blues artists have good rhythms
- 2) Mr. Jackson is getting the band ready for a performance the concert is on Wednesday they have 10 songs to prepare do you think they will be ready in time
- 3) Angela is a very good athlete and likes to swim she is a fast swimmer her favorite event is butterfly maybe one day she will be fast enough for the Olympics

Write four sentences about your favorite kind of music. Begin each sentence with a capital letter. End each sentence with correct punctuation.

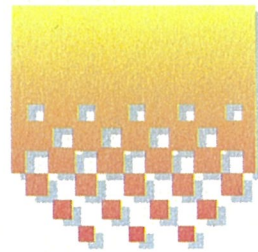
Spelling Builder

Words with Final e

Say the words *hid* and *hide*. When you hear a long vowel sound in a short word, you often see an e at the end of the word.

Add a final e to each word to make a word with a long vowel sound. Then write a sentence using the word.

- | | |
|---------|--------|
| 1) plan | 4) fin |
| 2) not | 5) cub |
| 3) slid | 6) tap |



Subject

The word or words in a sentence that tell what the sentence is about

Every sentence has a **subject**. The subject is the part of the sentence that tells who or what the sentence is about.

EXAMPLE

Emily enjoys oatmeal for breakfast.
Who enjoys oatmeal for breakfast?
Emily does.

Activity A Write these sentences on your paper. Underline the subject.

- 1) The school is on the corner of 5th and Main Streets.
- 2) Armando attends the school.
- 3) The bus goes to the school.
- 4) It arrives at 8:45 A.M.
- 5) School starts at 9:00 A.M.

The subject can be one word or many words.

EXAMPLE

The French teacher gave the class a quiz.
She returned the quizzes the next day.

Activity B Write these sentences on your paper. Underline the subject. Ask yourself who or what the sentence is about.

- 1) The students wrote an essay about summer.
- 2) Summer is their favorite time of year.
- 3) They passed the essay in today.
- 4) The teacher will grade the papers tonight.
- 5) The entire class did the assignment.

Predicate

The word or words in a sentence that tell something about the subject; it always contains a verb

Verb

The word or words in a sentence that express action or state of being or link ideas

The **predicate** is the part of a sentence that tells something about the subject. It can be one word or many words and always contains a **verb**. A verb is the word or words in a sentence that express action or state of being. A verb can also link ideas. You will learn more about verbs in Chapters 5 and 6.

EXAMPLE

Angela **swims**.

Angela **tried out for the swimming team**.

She **is one of the best swimmers on the team**.

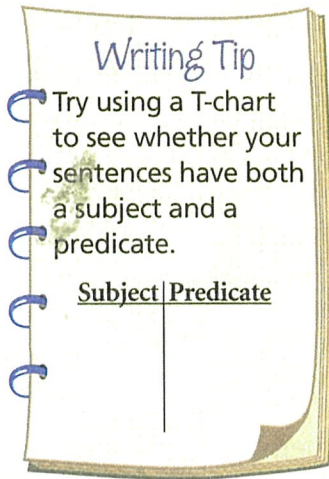
Activity C Write these sentences on your paper. Underline the predicate.

- 1) Swim practice begins at 3:00 P.M.
- 2) Angela practices every day after school.
- 3) She has a summer job at the YMCA.
- 4) She is a lifeguard at the pool.
- 5) The lifeguards had a picnic last weekend.



A picnic is just one of many summer activities.

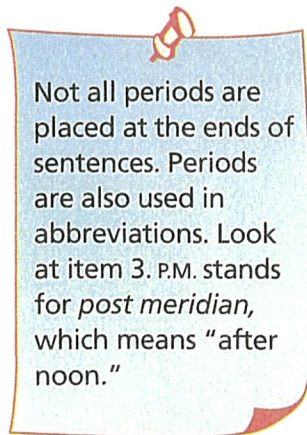
Activity D Combine the subjects and predicates to write five different sentences. Write the sentences on your paper.



Subjects	Predicates
1) Angela and Nathan	wants a CD player for her birthday.
2) They	practices every day.
3) The swim team	got a new paint box.
4) Emily	is fun to play.
5) A clarinet	like to draw.

Activity E Here is a list of sentence fragments that contain subjects. Write them on your paper. Add a predicate so that each group of words expresses a complete thought. End each sentence with correct punctuation.

- 1) Every summer I
- 2) The book on the table
- 3) The first football game of the year
- 4) My friend from elementary school
- 5) My breakfast this morning



Activity F Here is a list of sentence predicates. Write them on your paper. Add a subject to make each group of words express a complete thought. End each sentence with correct punctuation.

- 1) go to the beach at least once
- 2) moved here from another town
- 3) went to the movies at 3:00 P.M.
- 4) got ruined in the wash
- 5) was late as usual

Write these sentences on your paper. Underline the subject.

- 1) A sentence has two parts.
- 2) Mary is an old friend of mine.
- 3) Her birthday is on August 7.
- 4) My friend would like a CD player.
- 5) I will give her a CD.

Write these sentences on your paper. Underline the predicate.

- 6) Mary and I met in middle school.
- 7) We rode the school bus.
- 8) She sat next to me.
- 9) The first day of school was on a Tuesday.
- 10) My friend and I are now in high school.

Each sentence is missing a subject. Add a word or words to make the sentence complete. Write the complete sentence on your paper.

- 11) _____ is the most interesting president to me.
- 12) _____ begins at 3:00 P.M.
- 13) _____ interests me very much.
- 14) _____ hangs on the wall of my bedroom.
- 15) _____ is playing on the radio.