

Sentence

A group of words that expresses a complete thought. A sentence always begins with a capital letter and ends with a period, question mark, or exclamation point.

A **sentence** is a group of words that expresses a complete thought. Every sentence begins with a capital letter and ends with a punctuation mark.

EXAMPLES

Mrs. Johnson sold her old car to Rafael.

What did he pay for the car?

Stop right there!

A group of words may look like a sentence, but if it does not express a complete thought, it is not a sentence.

EXAMPLES

Not a sentence: The car with the red top.
(This group of words does not express a complete thought. What about the car with the red top?)

Sentence: The car with the red top belongs to her friend.

Not a sentence: Looked all over town for a car. (This group of words does not express a complete thought. Who looked all over town for a car?)

Sentence: Rafael looked all over town for a car.

Not a sentence: Before Rafael bought the car. (This group of words does not express a complete thought. What happened before Rafael bought the car?)

Sentence: Before Rafael bought the car, his father looked it over.

Activity A For each item below, write S on your paper if the group of words is a sentence. Write NS if the group of words is not a sentence.

- 1) Stop for the red light!
- 2) Before the storm was over.
- 3) In the house across the street.
- 4) That's nice.
- 5) Where does she live?
- 6) Searching for a new job.
- 7) She laughed.
- 8) Jack went fishing.
- 9) Because of the cold weather.
- 10) Each day before the sun rises.
- 11) You can leave now.
- 12) Everyone at the party had a good time.
- 13) Chen moved to town in March.
- 14) On the day of the party for Mrs. Williams.
- 15) Afterwards, they all helped clean up.

Activity B Copy each group of words from Activity A that you marked NS onto your paper. Add words to each item to make it a complete sentence. Check that each sentence begins with a capital letter and ends with a period, question mark, or exclamation point.

Lesson 1 Review

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

- 1) Our neighbor in the house across the street.
- 2) They painted the house a light shade of brown.
- 3) His whole family picked out the color.
- 4) They needed a two-story ladder.
- 5) When dark clouds appeared in the sky.
- 6) The part of the house under the roof.
- 7) The whole job took them three days.
- 8) After they were finished.
- 9) Feeling good about themselves.
- 10) Professional painters could not have done a better job.

Part B Copy each of the following groups of words onto your paper. Add words to make each one a complete sentence. Be sure to begin each sentence with a capital letter and end with a period, question mark, or exclamation point.

- 1) the papers on my desk
- 2) seen in the woods near the lake
- 3) walking to the game with friends
- 4) the girl on the bus
- 5) if anyone calls while I'm out

Subject

Who or what the sentence is about.

Every sentence has two parts: the **subject** and the predicate. The subject is the part of the sentence that tells what is being talked about. The main word in a subject is usually a noun or pronoun. The noun or pronoun and all the words that describe it make up the **complete subject**. The complete subject may be one word or many words.

Complete subject

All the words in the subject. It may be one word or many words.

EXAMPLES

He opened his book. (Who opened the book? *He* opened it.)

The woman who taught us Spanish last year became vice-principal. (Who became vice-principal? *The woman who taught us Spanish last year* did.)

Simple subject

The main noun or pronoun in the subject.

The **simple subject** is the main noun or pronoun in the complete subject.

EXAMPLES

The **quiz** on Friday was easy. (The simple subject is the noun *quiz*. The complete subject is *the quiz on Friday*.)

Mrs. Castillo is our Spanish teacher this year. (The simple subject is the proper noun *Mrs. Castillo*. The complete subject is also *Mrs. Castillo*.)

Activity A Write the complete subject of each of these sentences on your paper. Circle the simple subject. A complete subject may be only one word.

- 1) Mrs. Castillo comes from Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2) The entire class speaks in Spanish every day.
- 3) The teacher asks the students questions in Spanish.
- 4) They must answer her in Spanish.
- 5) The students in this class learn quickly.
- 6) Our book has beautiful photographs of South America.

The simple subject cannot be the object of the preposition.

EXAMPLES

One of the girls was late.

(*One of the girls* is the complete subject. The prepositional phrase *of the girls* describes the simple subject *one*. *Girls* is the object of the preposition *of*; therefore, *girls* cannot be the subject of the sentence.)

The **person** beside Carol is my aunt.

(*The person beside Carol* is the complete subject. The prepositional phrase *beside Carol* describes the simple subject *person*. *Carol* is the object of the preposition *beside*; therefore, *Carol* cannot be the subject of the sentence.)

Activity B The complete subject in each of these sentences is in bold. Write each simple subject on your paper.

- 1) **Each of the students** wrote the answer on his paper.
- 2) **All of my friends** like music.
- 3) **Eight of the students** were absent yesterday.
- 4) **The secretary in the principal's office** has the flu.
- 5) **Two of the students** had a fever.

Activity C Write the complete subject in each of these sentences on your paper.

- 1) I am going to the store.
- 2) A friend of Mrs. Castillo visited from Spain.
- 3) Three of our classmates went on the field trip.
- 4) The car with the flat tire pulled off the road.
- 5) Everyone in the band practiced for the concert.

The subject of a sentence usually comes before the verb, but it may come after the verb. When a sentence begins with the words *here* or *there*, the subject comes after the verb.

EXAMPLES

There will be a **bus** at eleven-thirty. (What will be there? A *bus* will be there.)

Here comes **Amy** now. (Who comes now? *Amy* does.)

Activity D Write the simple subject in each of these sentences on your paper.

- 1) There is a good program on TV tonight.
- 2) Here is the bus stop.
- 3) There are no sandwiches left.

In a question, the subject may come between a helping verb and a main verb or the parts of a verb phrase.

EXAMPLES

When does **Mary** have math? (The subject *Mary* comes between the helping verb *does* and the main verb *have*.)

Are **you** leaving soon? (The subject *you* comes between the verb phrase *are leaving*.)

When the interrogative pronouns *what*, *who*, and *which* begin a sentence that asks a question, the interrogative pronoun may be the subject.

EXAMPLES

Who called?

What is happening?

Which of these books is yours?

Activity E Write the simple subject in each of these sentences on your paper.

- 1) Will you be going to the meeting?
- 2) Which of the members will speak?
- 3) Who will lead the discussion?
- 4) Has this group ever met before?

In a command or a request, the subject is *you*, even though the word *you* may not appear in the sentence. The subject is understood to be the person spoken to.

EXAMPLES

Please help me set the table.

(**You**) Please help me set the table.

Jack, come here right now.

Jack, (**you**) come here right now. (Although the person spoken to is named, the subject is still understood to be *you*.)

Activity F Write the simple subject in each of these sentences on your paper.

- 1) Pedro, help me carry these bags into the house.
- 2) Open your books to page 45.
- 3) Denise, please come home right after school.
- 4) Don't touch that!
- 5) Please hurry!

The subject of a sentence can be compound (two subjects).

EXAMPLES

Connie and Brenda went to class.

The **girl** and her **friend** went shopping.

Activity G Write the compound subject in each of these sentences on your paper.

- 1) Neither Freddie nor Tricia went to the concert.
- 2) Both my hat and my gloves were lost.
- 3) Spring and summer are my favorite seasons.
- 4) Are my books or my papers in your locker?
- 5) There are enough sandwiches and juice for everyone.

Lesson 2 Review

Part A Write the simple subject in each of these sentences on your paper. The subject may be understood.

- 1) Christa wanted a CD player.
- 2) On Saturday she looked at them in the store.
- 3) Her birthday was in two weeks.
- 4) Her mother talked to Christa's brother.
- 5) "Would Christa like anything special for her birthday?"
- 6) "Get her a CD player."
- 7) Who is coming to Christa's party?

Part B Write each of these sentences on your paper. Underline the complete subject. Then circle the simple subject.

- 1) Baseball season begins soon.
- 2) Is James on the team?
- 3) He usually plays first base.
- 4) There will be a tryout on Friday.
- 5) Where will tryouts be held?
- 6) José and Andy play baseball.
- 7) The state college had a good team last year.
- 8) Many of their best players have graduated.
- 9) Here are the names of some players still on the team.

Predicate

The part of a sentence that tells something about the subject.

Complete predicate

The part of a sentence that contains the main verb and all the words that describe the verb. The main word in the complete predicate is the verb or verb phrase.

The **predicate** of a sentence tells what the subject did or what happened to the subject. The predicate always includes a verb.

The **complete predicate** includes the main verb and all of the words that tell something about the verb. The complete predicate may be one word or many words. Any words in a sentence that are not part of the complete subject are part of the complete predicate.

EXAMPLES

We **studied**.

Andy **will look at new cars this weekend**.

Activity A Write the complete predicate in each of these sentences on your paper.

- 1) Lena lost her earring yesterday.
- 2) Denise found the earring today.
- 3) One of the stones was missing.
- 4) Someone had apparently stepped on it.

The main part of the complete predicate is the verb or verb phrase. The verb or verb phrase in the complete predicate is sometimes called the simple predicate.

EXAMPLES

James **helped his father in the garage**. (The main word in the complete predicate is the verb *helped*.)

Anita **will meet us at the library**. (The main words in the complete predicate form the verb phrase *will meet*.)

Activity B Write the complete predicate in each of these sentences on your paper. Underline the verb or verb phrase.

- 1) Mrs. Barry gave Christa a surprise birthday party.
- 2) Christa's brother Will baked a carrot cake.
- 3) Her friends had decorated the house.
- 4) Christa was arriving home at six-thirty.

Usually the predicate part of the sentence comes after the subject.

EXAMPLE The whole family **enjoyed the party**.

In a question, part of the complete predicate often comes before the subject.

EXAMPLES **Did you bring Christa a present?**

Where did you buy it?

Are you having fun?

Adverbs and prepositional phrases that are part of the complete predicate may be at the beginning of the sentence.

EXAMPLES **At eleven o'clock everyone went home.**

Then Will helped his parents clean up.

Activity C Write the complete predicate in each of these sentences on your paper. Underline the verb or verb phrase.

- 1) Did you talk to Christa after the party?
- 2) Why did Elena leave early?
- 3) Maybe she was feeling sick.
- 4) After the party, Christa called Elena.
- 5) What was wrong?
- 6) Her mother needed her at home.
- 7) At the last minute, Mrs. Grasso was called in to work.
- 8) Elena babysits for her mother.
- 9) Usually, Mrs. Grasso does not work on weekends.
- 10) Because of a computer problem, she was needed in the office.
- 11) Luckily for Elena, the party was almost over.

The verbs in the predicate part of the sentence can be compound. A compound verb is made up of one or more verbs that are joined by a conjunction such as *and*, *but*, or *or*. Compound verbs share the same subject.

EXAMPLES

The sun **moved** behind the cloud and **disappeared**.

The audience **clapped** and **cheered**.

They **looked** calm but **were** very nervous.

Activity D Write the complete predicate in each of these sentences on your paper. Underline the verb or verbs in the predicate.

1) Andy looked at new cars but did not buy one.

2) The big cars cost too much and used too much gas.

3) The small cars got good gas mileage but remained out of his price range.

4) The used cars showed rust spots and needed repairs.

5) Should he buy that car or look some more?

6) He thought about it but could not decide.

7) His parents talked to him and gave him some advice.

8) He would save some more money and look again in the spring.

Activity E Write five sentences with compound verbs in the predicate on your paper. Circle each verb or verb phrase in your sentences.

Lesson 3 Review

Part A Write these sentences on your paper. Underline the complete predicate in each sentence.

Examples Do you like apples?

On Sunday, we will pick apples.

You can pick from the bottom branches or use the ladder.

- 1) Will you come to our apple picking party this Sunday?
- 2) When does it start?
- 3) Around two o'clock, all of my relatives will arrive.
- 4) Usually, they talk for a while and then climb back into their cars.
- 5) The apple orchard is not far from our house.
- 6) We will walk around the orchard and pick apples.
- 7) Then everyone will return to my house for a huge fall dinner.
- 8) Can I bring anything?
- 9) Bring a big appetite!

Part B Write each of these sentences on your paper. Underline the complete predicate. Then circle each main verb or verb phrase.

- 1) In the spring, people think about outdoor activities.
- 2) Some of the neighbors are planting flowers.
- 3) I always know the first day of spring.
- 4) My neighbor Matt takes his fishing gear out.
- 5) Usually, he is out in his yard with his fishing rod.
- 6) He cleans his gear and practices his casting.
- 7) Every year, he goes on a fishing vacation.
- 8) He dreams about catching the big one.
- 9) Last year it got away.
- 10) Will this year be different?
- 11) He has already invited us to a fish dinner.