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# What Is a Sentence?

A sentence is a group of words that tell a complete thought. In order to tell a complete thought, a sentence must tell *who* or *what*. It must also tell *what is* or *what happens*.

## WHO OR WHAT

Mr. Nolan  
Your backpack

## WHAT IS OR WHAT HAPPENS

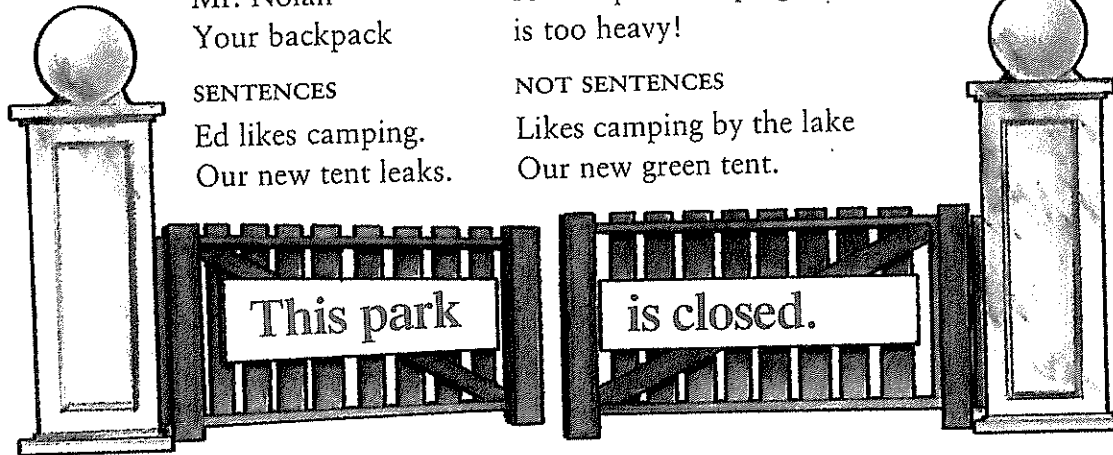
rolled up the sleeping bags.  
is too heavy!

## SENTENCES

Ed likes camping.  
Our new tent leaks.

## NOT SENTENCES

Likes camping by the lake  
Our new green tent.



**Guided Practice** Which groups of words are sentences?  
Which are not sentences?

Example: At Yellowstone National Park. *not a sentence*

1. A great place for a vacation.
2. The park has famous hot springs.
3. The first national park in the world.
4. Flows through the park into the canyon.
5. Many different kinds of wildlife.
6. Jed's family camped at Yellowstone.

### Summing up

- ▶ A sentence is a group of words that tell a complete thought.
- ▶ A sentence tells *who* or *what* and *what is* or *what happens*.

## 5 Simple Subjects (p. 22)

- Choose a simple subject from the Word Box to complete each sentence. Write the sentence. Use each subject once.

Example: My favorite \_\_\_\_ is baseball.

*My favorite sport is baseball.*

1. The most exciting \_\_\_\_ are the World Series.
2. This \_\_\_\_ is played in October.
3. Some baseball \_\_\_\_ become famous.
4. \_\_\_\_ was a famous player.
5. His real \_\_\_\_ was George.
6. \_\_\_\_ became a hero to many young people.

name
Babe Ruth
games
sport
players
He
series

- ▲ The complete subject of each sentence is underlined. Write the simple subject.

Example: The game of baseball comes from an old English sport.

*game*

7. Children in colonial times played a game with two bases.
8. Abner Doubleday gave the game of baseball its name.
9. He invented the diamond-shaped field.
10. The first pro baseball team was formed in 1869.
11. The name of the team was the Cincinnati Red Stockings.
12. Eight teams formed the National League in 1876.

- Write the complete subject of each sentence. Then underline the simple subject.

Example: Outstanding athletes are honored in halls of fame.

*Outstanding athletes*

13. Baseball has its own Hall of Fame.
14. It opened in Cooperstown, New York, in 1939.
15. Baseball players are elected to the Hall of Fame.
16. A candidate for the Hall of Fame must be retired.
17. Ten years in the major leagues is also necessary.
18. Many famous players are listed in the Hall of Fame.
19. Babe Ruth was elected to the Hall of Fame.
20. The highest honor in baseball was his.

## 6 Simple Predicates

You know that the complete predicate includes all the words that tell what the subject does or is. In every complete predicate, there is one main word. This main word tells exactly what the subject does or is. It is called the **simple predicate**.

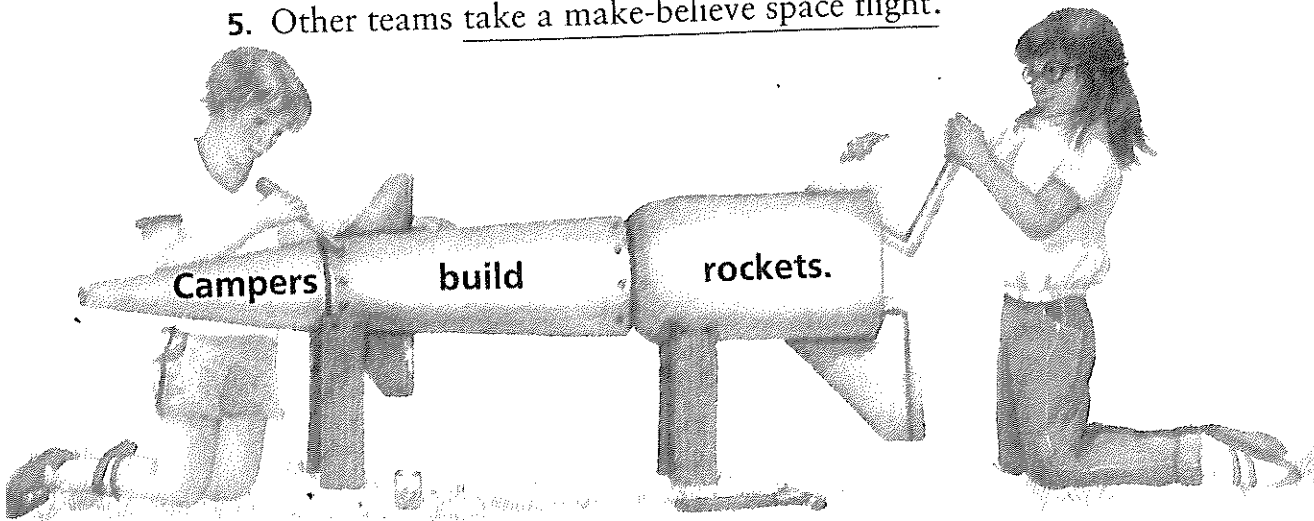
In each sentence below, the simple predicate is in color.

COMPLETE SUBJECTS	COMPLETE PREDICATES
Some students	go to space camp.
The camp	is in Alabama.
Campers	build rockets.
They	wear real space suits.

**Guided Practice** The complete predicate of each sentence is underlined. What is the simple predicate?

Example: Students come from all over the country. *come*

1. Campers are astronauts for a week.
2. They work in teams of ten.
3. The members name their teams after planets.
4. Some of the teams launch rockets into the air.
5. Other teams take a make-believe space flight.



## Summing Up

► The **simple predicate** is the main word in the complete predicate. It tells exactly what the subject does or is.

**Independent Practice** The complete predicate of each sentence is underlined. Write the simple predicate.

Example: Hundreds of boys and girls attend space camp. *attend*

6. Campers are twelve through fourteen years old.
7. All of the students stay at the camp.
8. The camp is in Huntsville, Alabama.
9. Trained leaders help the campers.
10. A camper's day begins about six o'clock in the morning.
11. The day ends about nine o'clock in the evening.
12. The campers do different activities each day.
13. These activities teach them about an astronaut's job.
14. Campers visit the Alabama Space and Rocket Center.
15. It is the world's largest space museum.
16. They go to the Marshall Space Flight Center.
17. Astronauts train at this flight center.
18. Some campers jump into the swimming pool.
19. They practice water-rescue exercises in the pool.
20. The teams taste different kinds of space food.
21. Campers use spacecraft equipment.
22. One piece of equipment is a robot arm.
23. The robot arm grabs objects in space.
24. Students learn answers to questions about space.
25. The camp opens every summer.<sup>2</sup>
26. The Alabama Space and Rocket Center runs the camp.

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### Writing Application: A Description

Pretend that you have just returned from a week at the summer space camp. Write a paragraph telling what you did at the camp and what you liked best. Underline each simple predicate.