

Subjects and Predicates

1b. A **subject** tells *whom* or *what* the sentence is about.

To find the subject, ask *who* or *what* is doing something or *about whom* or *what* something is being said.

1d. The **predicate** of a sentence tells something about the subject.

In the following examples, the subjects are underlined once and the predicates are underlined twice.

EXAMPLES The construction of the White House began in 1792.

Not until 1800 did the presidential residence have its first occupants.

EXERCISE A Identify the underlined part or parts of each of the following sentences as the subject or the predicate. On the line provided, write *S* for *subject* or *P* for *predicate*.

Example P 1. Has the White House been the home of every United States president
except George Washington?

- _____ 1. The White House was originally called the President's House.
- _____ 2. Later, it was called the Executive Mansion.
- _____ 3. The building's design was chosen after a contest in 1791.
- _____ 4. The Irish American architect James Hoban won five hundred dollars for his design.
- _____ 5. The original structure was built of white-gray sandstone.
- _____ 6. British forces attacked the capital in 1814 and burned the President's House.
- _____ 7. After the fire, painters whitewashed the new mansion.
- _____ 8. Covering smoke stains were several coats of white paint.
- _____ 9. People commonly called the building the White House.
- _____ 10. During his presidency, Theodore Roosevelt authorized the popular name.

EXERCISE B Identify the underlined part or parts of each of the following sentences as the subject or the predicate. On the line provided, write *S* for *subject* or *P* for *predicate*.

Example P 1. One symbol of United States independence is the Liberty Bell.

- _____ 11. A picture of the Liberty Bell appears in our social studies textbook.
- _____ 12. Does the Liberty Bell really weigh over two thousand pounds?
- _____ 13. The nation's flag also symbolizes independence.
- _____ 14. The flag's thirteen stripes stand for the nation's original thirteen colonies.
- _____ 15. Can any of you explain the symbolic meaning of the flag's fifty stars?

Simple and Complete Subjects

- 1c.** The **simple subject** is the main word or word group that tells *whom* or *what* the sentence is about.

The simple subject is part of the **complete subject**, which consists of all the words that tell *whom* or *what* the sentence is about.

SENTENCE	The Kabuki dancers' costumes are beautiful.
COMPLETE SUBJECT	The Kabuki dancers' costumes
SIMPLE SUBJECT	costumes

EXERCISE A In each of the following sentences, the complete subject is underlined. Circle the word or word group that is the simple subject.

Example 1. The long journey would have been impossible without these boots.

- Traditional Inuit dress includes the parka and mukluks.
- People in snowy climates wear snowshoes for a variety of purposes.
- North American Indians developed moccasins centuries ago.
- The upper part of this comfortable footwear is often adorned with colorful beads.
- A simple piece of leather with rawhide lacings was the first kind of shoe.

EXERCISE B In each of the following sentences, underline the complete subject and circle the simple subject.

Example 1. Traditional cowboys in the American West wore boots with spurs.

- Most of the ancient Egyptians went barefoot.
- Some kinds of sandals can be laced almost to the knee.
- Have you ever worn a plastic shoe?
- At one time, some shoes in Japan were attached to stilts as high as six inches.
- The Romans shaped shoes to fit the left foot and the right foot.
- In ancient Rome, shoe style depended on social class.
- During the 1300s in England, shoes with pointed toes eighteen inches long were popular.
- The people of some mountainous areas wear shoes with an upturned toe and a high heel.
- Decorations of gold, silver, and gems adorned some eighteenth-century shoes.
- The first shoe factory appeared in Massachusetts in 1760.

Simple and Complete Predicates

- 1a.** The **simple predicate**, or **verb**, is the main word or word group that tells something about the subject.

The simple predicate is part of the **complete predicate**, which consists of a verb and all the words that describe the verb and complete its meaning.

SENTENCE The party for my grandparents' fiftieth anniversary ended with a grand display of fireworks.

COMPLETE PREDICATE ended with a grand display of fireworks

SIMPLE PREDICATE ended

EXERCISE In each of the following sentences, underline the complete predicate and circle the simple predicate.

Example 1. The musician played a twelve-string guitar.

1. The guitarist put new strings on her guitar.
2. The new strings sounded much better.
3. She tuned her guitar several times.
4. The guitarist played the first string with the help of a pitch pipe.
5. She then tuned all the strings to the first string.
6. Well-tuned strings are important to the musician.
7. The guitarist has a good ear for pitch.
8. She tried several chords on her guitar.
9. Then she made some adjustments to the tuning.
10. The new strings stretched a bit.
11. Some strings are lighter than others.
12. Do many guitarists prefer the lightest strings?
13. Sometimes the guitarist uses a thumb pick.
14. She plays the low notes with the thumb pick.
15. The guitarist often sings her own lyrics with the chords.
16. She uses a capo for some songs.
17. Capos change the pitch of the strings.
18. Capos fit around the neck of the guitar.
19. With a capo, the musician plays in a different key.
20. Have you ever played a guitar?