

Verb Phrases

A *verb phrase* consists of a main verb and one or more helping verbs.

EXAMPLES **Did** you **see** the meteor shower last night?

One of my cousins in South Carolina **has been training** for the U.S. Olympic wrestling team.

EXERCISE In each of the following sentences, underline the complete verb phrase.

Example 1. Jillian has been swimming for four years.

1. Jillian's swim team is practicing for a meet.
2. Her team will be competing next month.
3. Jillian will be swimming freestyle.
4. The coach has been teaching new drills.
5. Some of the swimmers are training for the backstroke competition.
6. Jillian has competed in two other meets.
7. She was practicing each morning before school.
8. Now she will be practicing twice a day.
9. The team members are feeling more confident.
10. The coach has helped everyone on the team.
11. Years ago, Jillian could not swim a whole lap.
12. Now she can swim long distances.
13. Her little sister Rebecca has joined the team.
14. Rebecca is improving quickly.
15. She can do the butterfly stroke already.
16. Next year, Rebecca will compete in Jillian's age group.
17. Jillian and Rebecca have never raced one another at a meet.
18. They do race for fun quite often.
19. Swimming is recognized as a very healthful form of exercise.
20. Rebecca and Jillian are enjoying the sport.

Complete and Simple Subjects and Predicates A

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.

1e. 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.

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

Example 1. Examples of amphibians include salamanders, frogs, and toads.

1. Many types of amphibians can be found in the United States.
2. Several kinds of salamanders inhabit forest areas.
3. The largest salamander on land is the Pacific giant salamander.
4. The Pacific giant salamander can grow to nearly one foot in length.
5. A small mouse might be a meal to this salamander.
6. The main predator in a small stream might be this large salamander.
7. A smaller salamander is the Olympic salamander.
8. Logs provide shady spots for the Olympic salamander.
9. To these salamanders, moisture from the forest floor is extremely important.
10. These smaller salamanders live on land but need to be near moisture.

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

Example 1. Ancient forests are extremely valuable to many life-forms.

11. Many mammals, amphibians, and reptiles live in ancient forests.
12. Animals can make nests in dead trees.
13. Logs in streams and along the forest floor become part of an ancient forest.
14. These logs are beneficial for the soil and for animals.
15. All of the elements of an ancient forest work together.

Complete and Simple Subjects and Predicates B

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.

1e. 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.

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

Example 1. More and more people are using the Internet.

1. Use of the Internet is very common.
2. The World Wide Web is an excellent research tool.
3. Different search engines are available to users.
4. The purpose of a search engine is to help users find information.
5. The person looking for information types key words into a search engine.
6. The search engine looks for Web sites containing the key words.
7. The results of the search then appear in a list.
8. The user clicks on any Web site.
9. Very specific key words are sometimes necessary.
10. A search engine can be easy to use and fast.

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

Example 1. Finding information on the Internet may seem difficult at first.

11. A wealth of information is available on the Internet.
12. People can find ZIP Codes on the Internet.
13. Telephone directories are available on the Internet.
14. Students can find tutorials on the World Wide Web.
15. Can drivers find maps to their destinations?