

# Complete Sentences

To make a complete sentence, you must have:

- 1) A simple subject
  - 2) A simple predicate
- 

1) The **simple subject** is the main word that tells who or what the sentence is about.

**Note:** The subject is not a *part of speech*. It is a *phrasal constituent*.

**Example:** The man kicked the ball. (active voice)

In this example, the word “**man**” is the subject because it does the main action “**kicked**”. The word “**ball**” is not the subject. The word “**ball**” is the object.

**Example:** The ball was kicked by the man. (passive voice)

In this example, the word “**ball**” is the subject because it receives the action “**was kicked by the man**”. The word “**man**” is no longer the subject.

**Directions:** Underline the simple subjects in the following sentences.

- 1) I want a new car.
- 2) James is nice.
- 3) The sun is moving.
- 4) Max wrote the letter.
- 5) The letter was written by Max.

2) The **simple predicate** is the main verb in the sentence.

**Example:** Mary plays the piano.

In this example, the verb phrase “**plays the piano**” is the predicate.

*Example:* Josephine is having a nice day.

In this example, the verb phrase “**is having a nice day**” is the predicate.

*Directions:* Underline the simple predicates in the following sentences.

- 1) I run with my dog.
- 2) We made a cake.
- 3) The cake was made by us.
- 4) Jessica and Rebecca are playing the piano and singing.
- 5) We will be running in the race this Sunday.

*Directions:* Underline the simple subjects and draw a box around the simple predicates in the following sentences.

*Example:* Elise is going to sing in the concert tomorrow.

- 1) The dentist charges \$6200 for an office visit.
- 2) The baby weighed 7.2 pounds at birth.
- 3) We need to make a new plan.
- 4) I want to go to the concert, but I don't have enough money.
- 5) My friend and I are going to the movies tonight.

*Directions:* Now try to write three complete sentences of your own. Try to underline the simple subjects and circle the simple predicates.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_