Lesson 3
Subjects and Predicates: Simple and Complete

Every sentence has two parts: a subject and a predicate. The subject part of a sentence names whom or what the sentence is about. The predicate part of a sentence tells what the subject does or has. It can also describe what the subject is or is like.

SUBJECT PART          PREDICATE PART
The mountain climbers reached the peak.

The complete subject is all of the words in the subject part of a sentence. The complete predicate is all of the words in the predicate part of a sentence.

COMPLETE SUBJECT        COMPLETE PREDICATE
The horse’s black mane was blowing in the wind.

The simple subject is the main person or thing in the subject part of a sentence. The simple predicate is the main word or group of words in the predicate part of a sentence.

SIMPLE SUBJECT        SIMPLE PREDICATE
The horse’s black mane was blowing in the wind.

Exercise 1  Draw one line under each complete subject and two lines under each complete predicate.

The bottle of milk is in the refrigerator.

1. That little dog is following us to school.
2. Brian forgot his flute.
3. The yellow canary fell in love with the shiny mirror.
4. Those plaid slacks are much too long for me.
5. Kisha hated the movie.
6. The big, shaggy animals in the pen are yaks.
7. The girl’s long red hair shone in the sun.
8. The Yellow Hornets won the softball game.
9. My cousin Diana hit the ball right over the fence.
10. A sudden rainstorm ended the game.
11. He spilled the popcorn on the person in front of him.
12. Franco walked home alone.
13. The fire engine raced by on the way to a fire.
14. Dad’s tie was ruined by the gooey mess.
15. The red construction paper is in the cabinet.
16. Captain Kidd was a fearsome pirate.
17. The band played for two hours.
18. The small boat sank in the big waves.
19. The brave soldier was rescued.
20. Alison’s stepmother teaches English at the high school.

► Exercise 2  Draw one line under each simple subject and two lines under each simple predicate.

    I am twelve years old today.
    
1. Marco was born in Venice, Italy.
2. Chanel’s father traded his used car for a new one.
3. He traveled all the way to China by himself.
4. Those two were the first to cross the finish line.
5. In March, I returned all of my library books.
6. At least one hundred people waited in line.
7. He told his little sister a bedtime story.
8. Scott’s cousin lost his favorite jacket.
9. The diagram showed three secret passageways.
10. Chen’s nickname was “Louisville Slugger.”
11. Marina never told people her secret.
12. The musician strummed the guitar quietly.
13. Christopher read every book by his favorite author.
14. The red skirt cost more than the blue skirt.
15. The Buckeroos made Gary an honorary member of the team.
Lesson 4
Subjects and Predicates: Compound

Some sentences have more than one simple subject or simple predicate. A compound subject is two or more simple subjects that have the same predicate. The simple subjects are joined by and, or, or but.

**Mummies** and **art objects** are found in Egyptian tombs.

A compound predicate is two or more simple predicates that have the same subject. The simple predicates are connected by and, or, or but.

The archaeologists **excavated** the tomb and **discovered** the treasure.

Some sentences have both a compound subject and a compound predicate. The **pharaoh** and his **wife loved** the people and **did** many good works.

**Exercise 1** Draw one line under the compound subject and two lines under the simple predicate that they share.

Volcanoes and earthquakes **cause** great destruction.

1. Rome and Florence are two cities in Italy.
2. Both Sara and Caroline were chosen for the team.
3. Cinders and ashes rose from the fire.
4. People and animals mingle at the zoo.
5. Historians, archaeologists, and tourists love to explore ancient ruins.
6. Paintings and other objects were on display at the museum.
7. Smoke and car exhaust pollute the air.
8. Hot dogs and hamburgers sizzled on the grill.
9. In Egypt mummies and pyramids are favorite subjects of study.
10. My uncle and brother visited me in the hospital.
11. In the summer Shama and I swim every day.
12. Gold and silver cost more than copper.
13. Food and dishes filled the table.
14. The doctor and her nurse waited for the next patient.
15. Teeth and bones need calcium for strength.
16. Emily and Bill met Ron at the movies.
17. The lion and cheetah are predators.
18. The Ohio River and the Missouri River flow into the Mississippi River.
19. The librarian and their teacher helped them.
20. Most men and women exercise to stay in shape.

Exercise 2  Draw one line under each simple or compound subject and two lines under each compound predicate.

LaToya opened her book and raised her hand.

1. Farmers raise crops and sell them to food companies.
2. Mom and Juan made a casserole and put it in the oven.
3. They left the party and headed home.
4. We changed our clothes and went out for dinner.
5. Both Ahmed and Tanika study hard and get good grades.
6. The cat opened its mouth and yawned.
7. Shawn ignored the television and did his homework.
8. Mom and Dad built a doghouse and painted it.
9. My stepbrother opened the door and ran into the yard.
10. The dog followed him and barked.
11. At night we sit on the front porch and tell stories.
12. Our team scored a run and won the game.
13. Sarah will turn on the light and close the curtain.
14. Alicia and Consuelo went to the store and bought milk.
15. The thunder and lightning scared the campers and kept them awake.
16. Kevin likes hamsters and keeps them as pets.
17. I will wash the dishes and put them away.
18. The 4-H Club raises animals and shows them at fairs.