Unit 2: Parts of the Sentence

Lesson 12
Simple Subjects and Simple Predicates

Every sentence has two main parts, a subject and a predicate. The simple subject is the main noun or pronoun that tells what the sentence is about.

The batter swung at the third ball. (main noun as simple subject)
She hit a high pop foul. (main pronoun as simple subject)

A simple predicate is the verb or verb phrase that expresses action or being about the subject.

The crowd cheered after the touchdown. (main verb as simple predicate)
The team will practice on Saturday. (main verb phrase as simple predicate)

You can find a simple subject by asking Who? or What? about the verb.

My grandmother lived in Poland as a girl. (Who lived in Poland?)
Her quilts have won many prizes at state fairs. (What won many prizes?)

Exercise 1
Draw one line under the simple subject and two lines under the simple predicate of each sentence below.

1. Our family traveled through Africa last summer.
2. At the airport we joined a sightseeing tour.
3. The guide loaded us into a huge old van.
4. He drove the van to a nearby game preserve.
5. Unfortunately, the ancient vehicle lacked good shock absorbers.
6. Our bodies were jolted with every turn of the wheels.
7. Clouds of dust around the van obscured our vision.
8. The driver slowed the van to a stop.
9. Mom started loading her camera in anticipation.
10. Suddenly, several passengers spotted a giraffe and several lions.
11. Soundlessly, we crept from the van for a closer look.
12. The lions were snoozing in the sun.
13. Two small cubs batted each other with padded paws.
14. A zebra herd cautiously passed the sleeping lions.

15. The driver pointed at a hyena on the lookout for its meal.

16. In the distance an elephant was eating the bark off a tree.

17. I could hardly believe the nearness of so many wild creatures.

18. Mom shot a whole roll of film at just that one location.

19. The day ended too soon with a journey back to the town.

20. Maybe we can return to this serene spot next year.

Exercise 2  Supply a simple subject for each of the sentences below by writing a noun or a pronoun in the blank. Draw two lines under each simple predicate. Answers may vary.

My pets are safe.

1. Earlier today, the weather reporter announced an approaching snowstorm.

2. Father filled several plastic bottles with fresh water.

3. Mom hung extra tarpaulins over the windows in the family room.

4. My brother rushed outside to find the animals.

5. My sister gathered flashlights and candles.

6. Soon the sky darkened.

7. The wind in the trees was moaning eerily.

8. We heard the sounds of the storm distinctly.

9. After a particularly loud crash, Jerry told a joke for relief.

10. The dogs were crouching unhappily at our feet.

11. The cat, however, strolled through the house serenely.

12. Shortly after a lightning strike, the lights flickered out.

13. Luckily Dad had bought a battery-powered radio after the last storm.

14. We sat in the dark with the radio as a friendly voice.

15. A bridge had been smashed by high water on the Little River.

16. Thankfully, the police had closed it just minutes before.

17. Civil defense squads were providing shelter in the schools.

18. My parents worried about their families a few miles upstate.

19. The long night passed slowly into daylight.

20. I will not forget the storm of July 1994.
Lesson 13
Complete Subjects and Complete Predicates

Most sentences have additional words that tell more about the simple subject and the simple predicate.

The complete subject is made up of the simple subject and all the words that tell about it.

The members of the team voted to buy new uniforms.

The complete predicate is made up of all the words that tell what the subject is or does, including the simple predicate.

The principal of the school invited us to a board meeting.

A good way to find the complete subject and complete predicate in a sentence is to find the simple subject and simple predicate first.

The president of our class won the election by a landslide.

Once you have located the simple subject and predicate, then you can divide the entire sentence into complete subject and complete predicate.

The president of our class won the election by a landslide.

Exercise 1 Draw one line under the simple subject. Draw two lines under the simple predicate. Draw a vertical line (|) between the complete subject and the complete predicate.

A box of old letters was found in the trunk.

1. Several photos of the fire were in the paper.
2. Gabriella will take her science project to the fair.
3. The nature documentary showed the life of a coral reef.
4. Miguel’s bicycle was stolen from the school bike rack.
5. Many people on our block have dogs and cats.
6. We are learning about the Arctic tundra in geography.
7. Rita kicked four goals in her soccer game yesterday.
8. Three of the high-school classes planned a community project.
9. A new video will be my present to my brother.
10. Our local scout troop has hiked up Mount Baldy three times.
11. Jena spoke to me about her birthplace in Bosnia-Herzegovina.
12. The new encyclopedia contains much updated material.
13. A **number** of farmers **formed** a credit union.

14. The **rescuers** **chopped** through the door.

15. Carla's **grandfather** **writes** often to his family in Italy.

16. The beautiful **stone** in her ring **is** an opal.

17. That television **drama** **was** very unrealistic.

18. A **high wall** **surrounded** the large mansion.

19. We **will** study for the exam next week.

20. The **airport** **is** just off Exit 14.

21. The fans in the grandstand **cheered** the home team.

22. My **uncle** **knows** a lot about solar energy.

23. The frisky **squirrel** **leaped** for the birdfeeder.

24. Forty Canada **geese** **landed** on the lawn.

25. Our families **were** invited to the school picnic.

26. They **dived** into the pool.

27. The lovely old **oak** **came down** in the storm.

28. Suellen **was practicing** for the skating contest.

29. My **cousin** **called** me long distance last night.

30. The angry drivers **were stalled** at the accident site.

31. The heavy rain **brought** many worms to the surface.

32. The pilot **landed** the stricken jet in a field.

33. My favorite **dessert** **is** lemon sherbet.

34. The **cooks at school** **baked** a cake for the principal's birthday.

35. Our visitors from the city **were listening** to the croaking frogs.

36. Hillary's **cousins** from Seattle **will be** at the wedding tomorrow.

37. Jan **performed** the chemistry experiment successfully.

38. You **will enjoy** the seventh-grade play.

39. The simmering **volcano** **erupted** suddenly.

40. Roger **slid** into third base safely.