

Subjects and Predicates

Every complete **sentence** has a subject and a predicate.

SENTENCE = SUBJECT + PREDICATE

The **subject** is the noun that is the focus of the sentence.

The subject does something in the sentence.

Subjects tell the reader whom or what the sentence is about.

The subject of a sentence typically

- occurs at the beginning of the sentence (position),
- consists of a noun phrase (form), and
- indicates the topic of the discussion (meaning).

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

SIMPLE SUBJECT The **study** of small insects is a hobby of mine.

The **complete subject** consists of all the words that tell whom or what a sentence is about.

COMPLETE SUBJECT The **study of small insects** is a hobby of mine.

The **predicate** is what the subject does in the sentence. It is a verb.

The predicate describes the action or condition of the subject or subjects in a sentence.

The predicate

- follows the subject,
- starts with a verb indicating an action or state of being, and
- conveys a thought about the subject.

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

SIMPLE PREDICATE (VERB) Many people **will listen** with interest to facts about bugs.

The **complete predicate** consists of a verb and all the words that modify the verb and complete its meaning.

COMPLETE PREDICATE Many people **will listen with interest to facts about bugs**.