

Lesson Name : 4

Lesson Title : Subjects and Predicates

Course Name : English 2 Part 3 [Honors]

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Essential Instruction

It is a good idea to use your digital notebook to keep notes on new grammar concepts that you may need to reference later.

Today we will review the two main parts of a sentence: the **subject** and the **predicate**. In the most basic sentence, the **subject** refers to the noun, and the **predicate** refers to the verb.

**Example:** Enrique talked.

In this sentence, the noun “Enrique” is the **subject**, and the verb “talked” is the **predicate**.

Of course, most of our sentences are much longer and more complicated, which can make it harder to separate the two parts of the sentence. Take, for example, the following sentence from “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty” by James Thurber.



A newsboy went by shouting something about the Waterbury trial.

Which part of this sentence is the **subject**, and which part is the **predicate**? To find out, use this rule of thumb: Separate the sentence between the primary “actor” in the sentence and the verb that follows. We can divide this sentence into its parts by drawing an invisible line between “newsboy” and “went.” So “a newsboy” is the **subject**, and the remainder, or rest, of the sentence is the **predicate**.

The complete **subject** of a sentence includes the main noun and all the words and phrases that modify, or describe, it. Likewise, the complete **predicate** of a sentence includes the main verb and all the words and phrases that modify or describe it.



**Example:** The sleek gray cat (**subject**) jumped onto the windowsill (**predicate**).

Note that the words “sleek” and “gray,” which describe the cat, are included as part of the complete **subject**. The complete **predicate** includes the prepositional phrase “onto the windowsill,” which modifies the verb.

Let’s try another example. What is the **predicate** in the following sentence?

**Example:** After the game, the football team went to a restaurant to celebrate.

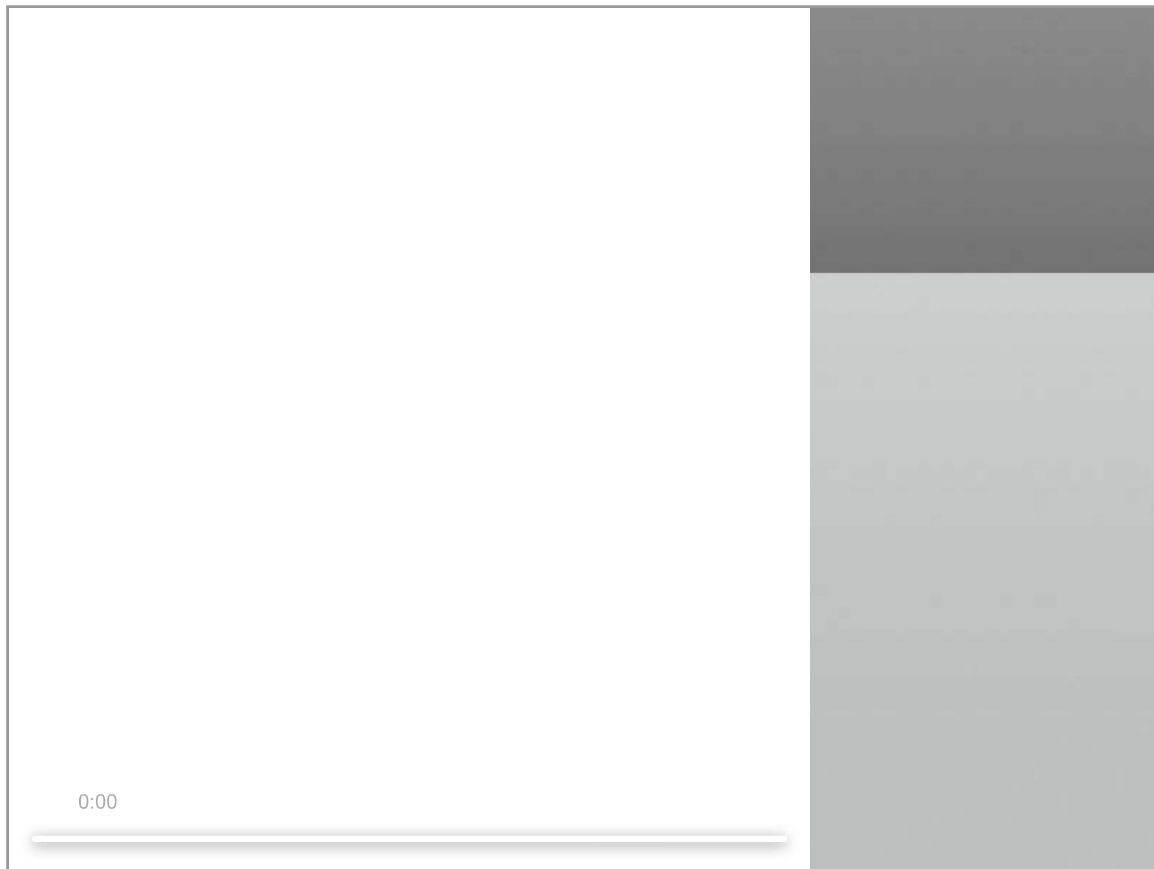
Is the prepositional phrase “after the game” part of the **subject** or the **predicate**? It comes at the beginning of the sentence, where we usually find the subject. But “after the game” describes the verb (by telling when the team went), and the verb is part of the **predicate**. So:

After the game (predicate), the football team (subject) went to a restaurant to celebrate (predicate).

### Effective Listening Skills

Now let’s focus on effective listening skills. In this listening activity, we will analyze how the narrator develops a character’s history, personality, relationships with other characters, motivation, conflicts, and physical description. To begin, make sure you follow the steps for active listening. Please review the [steps for active listening](#) in a new window.

Now that you are ready to be an effective listener, listen to a short clip about literary forms. Open the [audio file](#) in a new window.



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