

Understanding Sentence Structure

Section Objective:

- Students will be able to identify and properly use parts of speech in written and spoken communication.
- Practice the behaviors of effective, active listeners
- Apply active listening skills by listening to a short clip about literary forms.

Grammar Review Parts of the Sentence



Subjects and Predicates

A **subject** of a sentence is either a **noun** or a **pronoun** that answers what or whom before the verb.

Example: **Duke** frowned all night.

A **predicate** is a **verb, action or being (linking)**.

Example: Action: Duke **frowned** all night.

Example: Being: Duke **is** sick.

Example: Linking: Duke **became** sick.

Action Verbs

Action Verbs are verbs that express doing actions.

Examples: hit refuse step slap think learn
 cook destroy kick win forget take

Being (Linking) Verbs

be	is	appear	seem
being	are	become	smell
been	was	feel	sound
am	were	grow	remain
look	taste		

Practice: Simple Subjects / Simple Predicates

Simple Subject: Just one noun or pronoun

The **boy** in that picture is my brother.

Simple Predicate: One verb or one verb with its helping or auxiliary verbs

The boy in that picture **is** my brother.

Directions: Underline or italicize the **subjects** and circle or boldface the **predicates**.

(Be sure to underline helping or auxiliary verbs as part of the predicate. [**has called**])

Sample Helping Verbs:

do / does / would / could / should / has / have / all being verbs

1. After the game, the gang met at Pizza Hut.
2. I love shopping at Macy's.
3. Under the stairs, my brother finally found his shoes.
4. Please place that television over there.
5. In the garage, you will discover a surprise.
6. Sadly, we experienced great grief at the funeral.
7. No, my teacher does not understand.
8. Out of the house, came my brother.
9. Arguing passionately, the debate team missed the bus.
10. That is the not the right answer.

Complete Subjects / Complete Predicates

Complete Subject: One noun or pronoun with its modifiers

The boy in that picture is my brother.

Complete Predicate: One verb or one verb with its helping or auxiliary verbs along with all its modifiers and complements

The boy in that picture **is my brother**.

The boy in that picture **could possibly be my brother**.

Practice Sentences: Subjects / Predicates: Complete

Directions: Underline or italicize the **complete subjects** and circle or boldface the **complete predicates**.

1. The book on the desk will be thrown away tomorrow.
2. The discouraged girls walked back to their home sadly.
3. The title of the book cannot be hard to find.
4. Everyone within listening distance heard the terrible words.
5. During class, all of the students were asked to stop talking.

More Practice Short Stories & Subjects / Predicates

1. Choose ten sentences from the short stories, “*Rip Van Winkle*” by Washington Irving, “*The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*,” by James Thurber, and “*Dr. Heidegger’s Experiment*” by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Underline or italicize the simple subjects.

Circle or boldface the simple predicates.

Sample: *Walter Mitty* **drove** on toward Waterbury

Growth Activities

If you want to work with literature and grammar, analyze more sentences in “*Rip Van Winkle*” by Washington Irving, “*The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*” by James Thurber, and “*Dr. Heidegger’s Experiment*” by Nathaniel Hawthorne for subjects and predicates.

For more of a challenge, look at your short story. Can you recognize the subjects and predicates in your own short story? By working with the structure of your writing, you can improve your writing in so many ways.

