Complete Sentences

To make a complete sentence, you must have:

1) A simple subject
2) A simple predicate

1) The **simple subject** is the main word that tells **who** or **what** the sentence is about.

*Note:* The subject is not a *part of speech.* It is a *phrasal constituent.*

*Example:* The man kicked the ball. (active voice)

In this example, the word “**man**” is the subject because it does the main action “**kicked**”. The word “**ball**” is not the subject. The word “**ball**” is the object.

*Example:* The ball was kicked by the man. (passive voice)

In this example, the word “**ball**” is the subject because it receives the action “**was kicked by the man**”. The word “**man**” is no longer the subject.

*Directions:* Underline the simple subjects in the following sentences.

1) I want a new car.
2) James is nice.
3) The sun is moving.
4) Max wrote the letter.
5) The letter was written by Max.

2) The **simple predicate** is the main verb in the sentence.

*Example:* Mary plays the piano.
In this example, the verb phrase “plays the piano” is the predicate.

**Example:** Josephine is having a nice day.

In this example, the verb phrase “is having a nice day” is the predicate.

**Directions:** Underline the simple predicates in the following sentences.

1) I run with my dog.

2) We made a cake.

3) The cake was made by us.

4) Jessica and Rebecca are playing the piano and singing.

5) We will be running in the race this Sunday.

**Directions:** Underline the simple subjects and draw a box around the simple predicates in the following sentences.

**Example:** Elise is going to sing in the concert tomorrow.

1) The dentist charges $6200 for an office visit.

2) The baby weighed 7.2 pounds at birth.

3) We need to make a new plan.

4) I want to go to the concert, but I don’t have enough money.

5) My friend and I are going to the movies tonight.

**Directions:** Now try to write three complete sentences of your own. Try to underline the simple subjects and circle the simple predicates.

1) ________________________________________________________________

2) ________________________________________________________________

3) ________________________________________________________________