**Sentence or Sentence Fragment?**

**10a. A sentence** is a word group that contains a subject and a verb and that expresses a complete thought.

When we say that a sentence expresses a complete thought, we mean that the sentence does not need any other words for it to stand alone. A sentence also begins with a capital letter and ends with a period, a question mark, or an exclamation point.

**EXAMPLES**
- Erica won two out of three games. [The subject is Erica, and the verb is won.]
- What a great day we had! [The subject is we, and the verb is had.]
- Have you read that book yet? [The subject is you, and the verb is Have read.]
- Hand me that pen, please. [The subject you is understood in this imperative sentence. The verb is Hand.]

**EXERCISE A** Add capital letters and end marks to the following word groups to make them sentences. Write your answers on the lines provided.

**Example 1.** you will love the new theater [This word group has a subject, you, and a verb, will love.]

The word group also expresses a complete thought.

**You will love the new theater.**

1. did you see the dog with the white hair around its left eye [Which word begins the sentence? What end mark would be appropriate?]

2. the Johnsons are planning a picnic this weekend

3. remember to do your assignments tonight

4. what a fun surprise party that was

5. has Jim called yet

A **sentence fragment** is a group of words that looks like a sentence but does not contain both a subject and a verb or does not express a complete thought. Sentence fragments are common in conversation but are generally not appropriate in formal writing or speaking.

**SENTENCE FRAGMENT** Won two out of three games. [The word group has a verb, Won, but it does not have a subject.]

**SENTENCE** Erica won two out of three games. [The word group has a subject, Erica, and a verb, won.]
SENTENCE FRAGMENT  When you get home. [The word group contains a subject, you, and a verb, get, but it does not express a complete thought.]

SENTENCE  You can call me when you get home. [The subject is You, and the verb is can call. The word group when you get home is added to an independent clause that expresses a complete thought.]

EXERCISE B  On the line provided, write S if the word group is a sentence or F if it is a sentence fragment.

Example  _____ 1. After we go to dinner. [This word group contains a subject, we, and a verb, go. However, the word group does not express a complete thought, so the word group is a sentence fragment.]

 _____ 6. The sisters went home. [Does this word group contain a subject and a verb? Does it express a complete thought?]

 _____ 7. The boy in her class.

 _____ 8. Sang a beautiful song at the concert.

 _____ 9. Ken built the bookshelf himself.

 _____ 10. Did what?

EXERCISE C  The following items are sentence fragments. Add words to make each sentence fragment a complete sentence. Write your answers on the lines provided.

Example  1. Before you leave for the game. [This word group has a subject, you, and a verb, leave. However, the word group does not express a complete thought, so it is a sentence fragment.]

Before you leave for the game, put on a jacket.

11. Sleeps on a pillow next to my bed. [This word group is missing a subject.]

12. My favorite baseball team.

13. Went to the movies yesterday.


15. What your middle name?
The Subject

The Simple Subject

Sentences consist of two main parts: subjects and predicates.

10c. The **simple subject** is the main word or word group that tells whom or what the sentence is about.

**EXAMPLES**
- The smell of fresh bread drifted into the living room. [What drifted into the living room? Smell did. *Smell* is the subject of the sentence.]
- When did your sisters take an art class? [Who took an art class? Sisters did. *Sisters* is the subject of the sentence.]

**TIP** The simple subject is never found after a preposition. A preposition is a word that tells the relationship of a noun or pronoun to another word in the sentence. Some common prepositions are *about, among, at, for, from, in, of, under,* and *with.* To find the simple subject, cross out any preposition and the noun or pronoun that follows it.

**EXAMPLE**
- The smell of fresh bread drifted by. [Smell is the subject, not *bread.*]

**EXERCISE A** Underline the simple subject in each of the following sentences.

**Example 1.** Does the watch on the table belong to Chad? [The sentence tells about *watch.*]

1. Soft music was playing on the radio. [What is the sentence about?]  
2. A pile of magazines and newspapers sat in the middle of the room.  
3. Several rows of flowers are beyond the fountain.  
4. The four students from Seattle enjoyed their trip to the Grand Canyon.  
5. Were many delicious dishes from different countries served to the guests?

The Complete Subject

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

**COMPLETE SUBJECTS**
- The smell of fresh bread drifted into the living room. [What drifted into the living room? The smell of fresh bread did. *The smell of fresh bread* is the complete subject.]
- Near the waterfall are some beautiful orchids. [What objects are near the waterfall? Some beautiful orchids are. *Some beautiful orchids* is the complete subject.]

**REMINDER** Sometimes the simple subject is also the complete subject.

**EXAMPLE** Jane is on vacation in London. [Jane is the simple and complete subject.]
**EXERCISE B** In each of the following sentences, underline the complete subject once. Then, underline the simple subject a second time. Hint: In some sentences, the simple subject and the complete subject will be the same.

Example 1. On a small leaf was a black-and-yellow caterpillar. [The sentence tells about the complete subject a black-and-yellow caterpillar. The simple subject is caterpillar.]

6. Jessica did her math homework on the porch of the house. [Who is the sentence about?]
7. A small flock of birds was flying north toward a lake.
8. Next to the vase is a beautifully framed picture of the family.
9. We are going to the Smoky Mountains on our next vacation.
10. Are the CDs from that record label still on sale?

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**The Compound Subject**

A *compound subject* consists of two or more subjects that are joined by a conjunction and that have the same verb.

A conjunction connects words or groups of words. The conjunctions that are usually used to connect the parts of a compound subject are and and or.

**EXAMPLES** Sarah and Katie are good soccer players. [The parts of the compound subject Sarah and Katie are joined by the conjunction and. They have the same verb, are.]
Patrick, Cindy, or Chris will bring the music. [The parts of the compound subject Patrick, Cindy, and Chris are joined by the conjunction or. They have the same verb, will bring.]

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**EXERCISE C** In the following sentences, underline the parts of the compound subject. Then, circle the conjunction.

Example 1. Are Tom, Owen, and Jim going to the movies? [The conjunction is and. And connects the subjects Tom, Owen, and Jim.]

11. Books or folders are stacked next to the wall. [What is the sentence about? What connects the parts of the subject?]
12. The party supplies and the food will be picked up Saturday afternoon.
13. A grapefruit or an orange can be part of a good breakfast.
14. Wide rivers and narrow streams run through our home state.
15. Are Sally, Ted, and Bob sleeping yet?
The Predicate

The Simple Predicate

Sentences consist of two main parts: subjects and predicates.

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

**SIMPLE PREDICATE** Many people enjoy the sound of crickets at night. [Enjoy is the simple predicate and tells what people do.]

A simple predicate can be a one-word verb or a verb phrase.

**EXAMPLES**
- Betsy sprained her ankle. [The verb is sprained and tells what Betsy did to her ankle.]
- Are the packages arriving today? [The verb phrase is arriving. The words in the verb phrase are separated by the complete subject the packages and tell what is happening to the packages.]

**EXERCISE A** Draw one line under the simple predicate in the following sentences.

**Example 1.** Sandra and Joe are washing the car. [The simple predicate are washing tells what Sandra and Joe are doing.]

1. My brother joined a chess team last year. [What did my brother do?]
2. We store boxes and other items in our attic.
3. In our basement you will find an old, dusty trunk.
4. Early Saturday morning, Pam, Lucy, and Cameron visited their grandparents.
5. A plant near the window fell to the floor unexpectedly.

The Complete Predicate

The complete predicate consists of the verb and all the words that describe the verb and complete its meaning.

**COMPLETE PREDICATE** Many people enjoy the sound of crickets at night. [The simple predicate is enjoy. The complete predicate is enjoy the sound of crickets at night.]

Sometimes the simple predicate is also the complete predicate.

**EXAMPLE** The dogs are barking. [Are barking is the simple predicate and the complete predicate.]

The predicate usually comes after the subject. Sometimes, however, part or all of the predicate comes before the subject.

**EXAMPLES** On Monday our science class will visit the underground caverns.
Swimming near the shore of the lake were two beautiful ducks.
EXERCISE B Draw one line under the complete predicate in the following sentences. Then, draw a second line under the simple predicate.

Example 1. Does the dog have enough water in its bowl? [The complete predicate asks what the dog has. The simple predicate is Does have.]

6. The group of tourists visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. [What did the group of tourists do?]

7. Belinda is taking a class in ancient Egyptian art.

8. Traveling through Europe by train were some American students and their parents.

9. My aunt Barbara called us from Toronto last night.

10. Are the apples on the table?

EXERCISE C Draw one line under the complete predicate in the following sentences. Then, draw a second line under the simple predicate. Be sure to underline each part of a compound verb and all parts of a verb phrase.

Example 1. Did the beetle crawl into a hole and disappear? [The complete predicate tells about the beetle. The simple predicate is the compound verb did crawl and disappear.]

11. At the beach we built sand castles and rode the waves. [What did we do? Where did we do it?]

12. At the ceremony he was given several awards.

13. Elaine borrowed my scarf yesterday and wore it to the concert.

14. On the weekend my cousin Jake usually skis or fishes.

15. Will the plans for the new house be finished by next week?
Classifying Sentences by Purpose

Every sentence has a purpose. All sentences can be classified as having one of these four purposes: **declarative**, **imperative**, **interrogative**, and **exclamatory**.

**10h. A declarative sentence** makes a statement and ends with a period.

EXAMPLES The store will close in ten minutes. [statement]  
Martin watched a film about dolphins. [statement]

**10i. An imperative sentence** gives a command or makes a request. Most imperative sentences end with a period. A strong command ends with an exclamation point.

EXAMPLES Study this painting by Picasso. [command]  
Please show me the photographs from your vacation. [request]

**TIP** Often, when people state a strong command, they speak more loudly than when they state a simple command or make a request. When you write, you can show this change in volume by using an exclamation point.

EXAMPLE Don’t step in the wet cement! [strong command]

**NOTE** The subject of a command or a request is always **you**. When you doesn’t appear in the sentence, you is called the understood subject.

EXAMPLES (You) Study this painting by Picasso. [command]  
(You) Please show me the photographs from your vacation. [request]  
(You) Don’t step in the wet cement! [strong command]

The word **you** is the understood subject even when the person spoken to is addressed by name.

EXAMPLE Louis, (you) please read the paragraph aloud. [In this request, Louis is used to get the listener’s attention. You, not Louis, is the subject.]

**EXERCISE A** On the line provided, write **DEC** if the sentence is declarative or **IMP** if it is imperative.

**Examples**  

**DEC** 1. Gina lives near a city park. [This sentence expresses a statement.]  
**IMP** 2. Don’t touch that hot soup kettle! [This sentence expresses a command.]

____ 1. Give your book report on Friday. [Does this sentence express a statement or a command?]  
____ 2. Mario finished the race first. [Does this sentence express a statement or a command?]  
____ 3. My great-grandfather came to the United States from Ireland.  
____ 4. Last Saturday, Samantha and Rick rode their mountain bikes through the park.  
____ 5. Check the water level!  
____ 6. I think those are some parts from an old car.  
____ 7. Please call me after school today.
8. Watch out for those wasps!
9. Judy’s older sister will one day be a veterinarian.
10. Sandra, look at this warm, colorful scarf.

**10j.** An interrogative sentence asks a question and ends with a question mark.

**EXAMPLES**
- Who wrote the poem about a raven? [question]
- Does this basketball need more air? [question]

**10k.** An exclamatory sentence shows excitement or expresses strong feeling and ends with an exclamation point.

**EXAMPLES**
- My story won the contest! [exclamation]
- What a concert that was! [exclamation]

**REMINDER** A strong imperative may end with an exclamation mark.

**EXAMPLE** Don’t touch that! [strong command]

**EXERCISE B** Punctuate each of the following sentences with an appropriate end mark: a period, a question mark, or an exclamation point. Then, on the line provided, classify each sentence by writing DEC for declarative, IMP for imperative, INT for interrogative, or EXC for exclamatory.

**Examples**
1. Tony, wait for me. [This sentence expresses a command.]
   IMP
2. What a great idea that is! [This sentence expresses an exclamation.]
   EXC

11. Watch out for that car [Does this sentence express a command or a statement?]
12. Did Anna meet your parents [Does this sentence express a strong emotion or a question?]
13. What a hilarious joke that was
14. Why did John go to the bookstore
15. This is my brother’s favorite book
16. What a great time I’ll have tonight
17. Where is my new brown belt
18. We will have turkey sandwiches for lunch
19. Please turn the calendar page to the next month
20. I can’t believe we won
Chapter 10: The Parts of a Sentence, pp. 1–8

Sentence or Sentence Fragment? pp. 1–2

**EXERCISE A**

1. Did you see the dog with the white hair around its left eye?
2. The Johnsons are planning a picnic this weekend.
3. Remember to do your assignments tonight.
4. What a fun surprise party that was!
5. Has Jim called yet?

**EXERCISE B**

6. S
7. F
8. F
9. S
10. F

**EXERCISE C**

Additions to sentence fragments will vary. Sample responses are provided.

11. My cat sleeps on a pillow next to my bed.
12. My favorite baseball team is the Johnston High School Rams.
13. He and I went to the movies yesterday.
14. Maxine is a very funny person.
15. What is your middle name?

The Subject, pp. 3–4

**EXERCISE A**

1. Soft music was playing on the radio.
2. A pile of magazines and newspapers sat in the middle of the room.
3. Several rows of flowers are beyond the fountain.
4. The four students from Seattle enjoyed their trip to the Grand Canyon.
5. Were many delicious dishes from different countries served to the guests?

**EXERCISE B**

6. Jessica did her math homework on the porch of the house.
7. A small flock of birds was flying north toward a lake.
8. Next to the vase is a beautifully framed picture of the family.
9. We are going to the Smoky Mountains on our next vacation.
10. Are the CDs from that record label still on sale?

**EXERCISE C**

11. Books or folders are stacked next to the wall.
12. The party supplies and the food will be picked up Saturday afternoon.
13. A grapefruit or an orange can be part of a good breakfast.
14. Wide rivers and narrow streams run through our home state.
15. Are Sally, Ted, and Bob sleeping yet?
The Predicate, pp. 5–6

**EXERCISE A**

1. My brother joined a chess team last year.

2. We store boxes and other items in our attic.

3. In our basement you will find an old, dusty trunk.

4. Early Saturday morning, Pam, Lucy, and Cameron visited their grandparents.

5. A plant near the window fell to the floor unexpectedly.

**EXERCISE B**

6. The group of tourists visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

7. Belinda is taking a class in ancient Egyptian art.

8. Traveling through Europe by train were some American students and their parents.

9. My aunt Barbara called us from Toronto last night.

10. Are the apples on the table?

**EXERCISE C**

11. At the beach we built sand castles and rode the waves.

12. At the ceremony he was given several awards.

13. Elaine borrowed my scarf yesterday and wore it to the concert.

14. On the weekend my cousin Jake usually skis or fishes.

15. Will the plans for the new house be finished by next week?

Classifying Sentences by Purpose, pp. 7–8

**EXERCISE A**

1. IMP 5. IMP 8. IMP

2. DEC 6. DEC 9. DEC

3. DEC 7. IMP 10. IMP

**EXERCISE B**

11. Watch out for that car!

12. Did Anna meet your parents?

13. What a hilarious joke that was!

14. Why did John go to the bookstore?

15. This is my brother’s favorite book.

16. What a great time I’ll have tonight!

17. Where is my new brown belt?

18. We will have turkey sandwiches for lunch.

19. Please turn the calendar page to the next month.

20. I can’t believe we won!