

# CHAPTER 07

## *the art of language | parts of a sentence*

In Chapters 1 (page 3) and 4 (page 41), we learned all nine **PARTS OF SPEECH**:

- nouns
- verbs
- pronouns
- adjectives
- adverbs
- articles
- conjunctions
- interjections
- prepositions

These nine categories make up **one system** that we use to organize language, and we call that system **PARTS OF SPEECH**. In that system, **PARTS OF SPEECH**, we categorize every word as a **NOUN**, a **VERB**, an **ADJECTIVE**, etc.

Another system we use to organize language, we call **PARTS OF A SENTENCE**. What are the **PARTS OF A SENTENCE**? How do the **PARTS OF A SENTENCE** work? How do we use the **PARTS OF A SENTENCE**?

First, we'll look at the two necessary **PARTS OF A SENTENCE**:

- **SIMPLE SUBJECT**
- **SIMPLE PREDICATE**

Every sentence must have a:

- **SIMPLE SUBJECT**
- **SIMPLE PREDICATE**

What is a **SIMPLE SUBJECT**?

What is a **SIMPLE PREDICATE**?

We use the **PARTS OF SPEECH** as building blocks to make the **PARTS OF A SENTENCE**. For example:

- **NOUNS** are a **PART OF SPEECH**.

We use **NOUNS** (or **PRONOUNS**) to make the **PART OF A SENTENCE** that we call **SIMPLE SUBJECT**

- **VERBS** are a **PART OF SPEECH**.

We use **VERBS** to make the **PART OF A SENTENCE** that we call: **SIMPLE PREDICATE**

To make **any sentence** work, we need at least two **PARTS OF A SENTENCE**:

- We need a **SIMPLE SUBJECT** – always a **NOUN** (or **PRONOUN**)
- We need a **SIMPLE PREDICATE** – always a **VERB**

*simple subject*

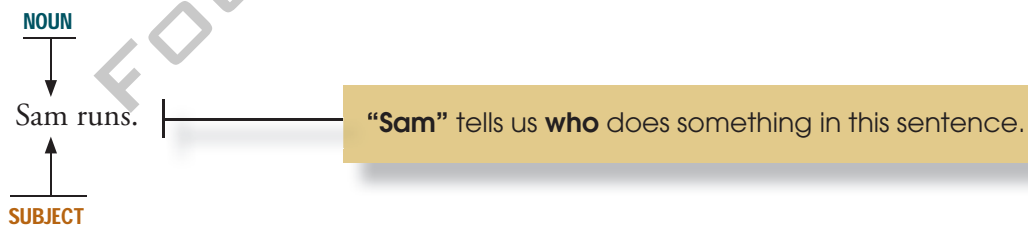
In every sentence, somebody (or something) does something.

The **SIMPLE SUBJECT** of a sentence *tells us* **WHO** or **WHAT** does something in that sentence.

Remember: we always use a **NOUN** (or **PRONOUN**) to make the **SIMPLE SUBJECT**.

Examples of **SIMPLE SUBJECT**.

Here the **NOUN** “Sam” becomes the **SIMPLE SUBJECT** of the sentence.



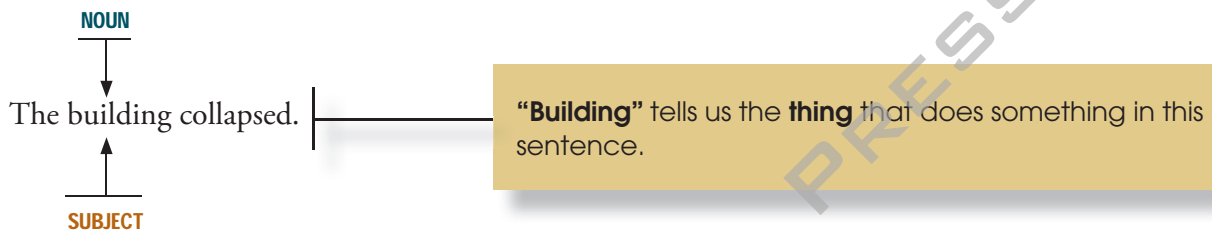
The **NOUN** “Charles” becomes the **SIMPLE SUBJECT** of this sentence.



Here, the **NOUN** “Roderigo” becomes the **SIMPLE SUBJECT** of this sentence.



Here, the **NOUN** “building” becomes the **SIMPLE SUBJECT** of this sentence.



The **SIMPLE SUBJECT** of a sentence is *always* a **NOUN** (or **PRONOUN**). Fill in five **SUBJECTS** in the following sentences. Notice that each **SUBJECT** you choose is a **NOUN**.

### EXERCISES ON SIMPLE SUBJECT

Example: \_\_\_\_\_ talks.      Billy talks.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ sings.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ cooks.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ drives.

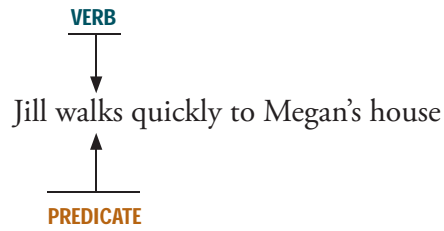
4. \_\_\_\_\_ writes.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ plays.

*simple predicate*

The **SIMPLE PREDICATE** tells us **WHAT** the **SUBJECT** DOES.

We always make a **SIMPLE PREDICATE** from a **VERB**



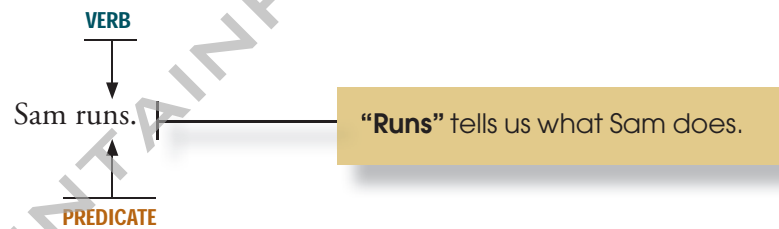
In the sentence above, the **VERB** “walks” becomes the **SIMPLE PREDICATE**. It tells us what the **subject** Jill does.

Remember, *two* systems we use to organize language and grammar:

- PARTS OF SPEECH**
- PARTS OF A SENTENCE.**
- PARTS OF SPEECH** tell us what each word is on its own.
- PARTS OF A SENTENCE** tell us how each word *works together* with all the other words in a sentence.

Examples of **SIMPLE PREDICATE**:

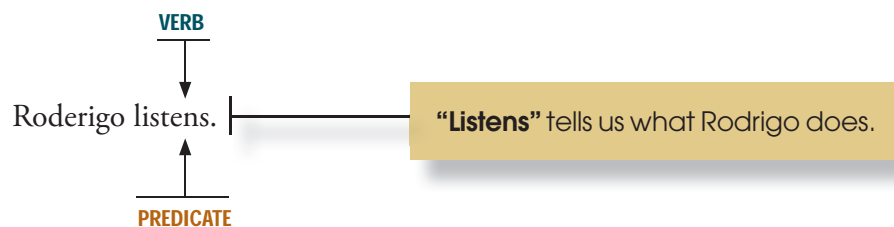
Here, the **VERB** “runs” becomes the **SIMPLE PREDICATE** of the sentence.



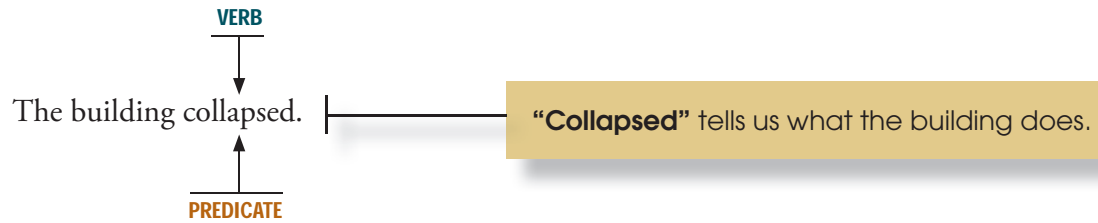
The **VERB** “talks” becomes the **SIMPLE PREDICATE** of this sentence.



Here, the **VERB** “listens” becomes the **SIMPLE PREDICATE** of this sentence.



Here, the **VERB** “collapsed” becomes the **SIMPLE PREDICATE** of this sentence.



## EXERCISES ON SIMPLE PREDICATE

In the following five sentences, fill in the **SIMPLE PREDICATE** that tells us **what** the **SUBJECT** of the sentence **DOES**:

1. Jim \_\_\_\_\_ his car.

↑                      ↑  
SUBJECT      PREDICATE

2. Latasha \_\_\_\_\_ her bedroom.

↑                      ↑  
SUBJECT      PREDICATE

3. Gloria \_\_\_\_\_ a book.

↑                      ↑  
SUBJECT      PREDICATE

4. Pasquale \_\_\_\_\_ to the store.

↑                      ↑  
SUBJECT      PREDICATE

5. Roger \_\_\_\_\_ in the ocean.

↑                      ↑  
SUBJECT      PREDICATE

The **SIMPLE PREDICATE** is *always* a **VERB**.

## *a complete thought*

Every **complete** sentence has *at least*

- a **SUBJECT**
- a **PREDICATE**

**and**

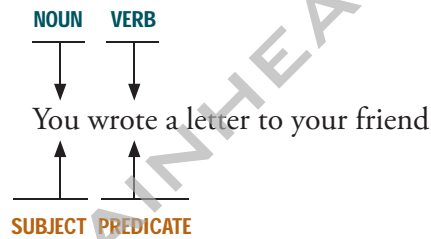
- expresses a **COMPLETE THOUGHT**.

This group of words:

you wrote a

has a **SUBJECT** (“you”), and it has a **PREDICATE** (“wrote”), **but** it does not express a **COMPLETE THOUGHT**. It is not a sentence.

In the following group of words, you have a **COMPLETE THOUGHT**, and you have a complete sentence:



Now, you have a **complete sentence**, with:

- a **SUBJECT** (“You”)
- a **PREDICATE** (“wrote”)
- a **COMPLETE THOUGHT** [a letter to your friend.]

## *what is a sentence fragment?*

If you don’t have **both** a **SUBJECT** and a **PREDICATE** in your sentence, or if your sentence does not express a **COMPLETE THOUGHT**, you have a

### SENTENCE FRAGMENT

(also called an **INCOMPLETE SENTENCE**)

You have not written a **complete** sentence but only a **FRAGMENT** of a sentence.

**Fragment =**

From the Latin: *Frangent-um*

*Frangere* = to break

A fragment is something broken off from the whole; it is only a part of something, not the whole of something.

Slept late on Sunday. = **sentence fragment** (no **SUBJECT**. WHO slept late on Sunday?)

Martin late on Sunday. = **sentence fragment** (no **PREDICATE**. WHAT did Martin DO?)

Because Martin arrived. = **sentence fragment** (not a **COMPLETE THOUGHT**.)

If you write a **sentence fragment**, your Professor may write the proofreading mark “*frag*” above your mistake. You can correct that mistake by adding a **SUBJECT**, or by adding a **PREDICATE**, or by making the sentence a **complete thought**.

*independent clause*

What is an **independent clause**? Like every sentence, every **independent clause** has *at least* a **SUBJECT** and a **PREDICATE**.

- If **any group of words**
- has a **SUBJECT** and a **PREDICATE**,
- and -
- that group of words **can stand alone as a complete thought** because it expresses a complete thought,

we call it an **INDEPENDENT CLAUSE**.

- It can stand alone, independent of any other words.
- We can easily turn any **INDEPENDENT CLAUSE** into a sentence merely by adding punctuation: a **period**, an **exclamation mark**, or a **question mark**. Let's take the two groups of words we used at this Chapter's beginning:

I come from Chicago [Subject: “I;” Predicate: “come”]

My mother just went back to college [Subject: “mother;” Predicate: “went”]



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Each of these two groups of words has a **SIMPLE SUBJECT**:

- “I”
- “mother”

Each of these two groups of words has a **SIMPLE PREDICATE**:

- “come”
- “went”

Each one of these two groups of words can **stand alone** as a sentence. They are each an **INDEPENDENT CLAUSE**. To make these **INDEPENDENT CLAUSES** into sentences, we just add punctuation; in this case, we add periods.

I come from Chicago.  
 My mother just went back to college.

**EXERCISES ON INDEPENDENT CLAUSES:**

Indicate which of the following groups of words is an independent clause:

	independent clause	not an independent clause
1. I went	_____	_____
2. I came home	_____	_____
3. You stood up	_____	_____
4. The cup the table	_____	_____
5. I drink coffee	_____	_____

*one sentence = one thought*

The following sentence has *more than one* thought:

one thought

I come from Chicago my mother just went back to college.

another thought

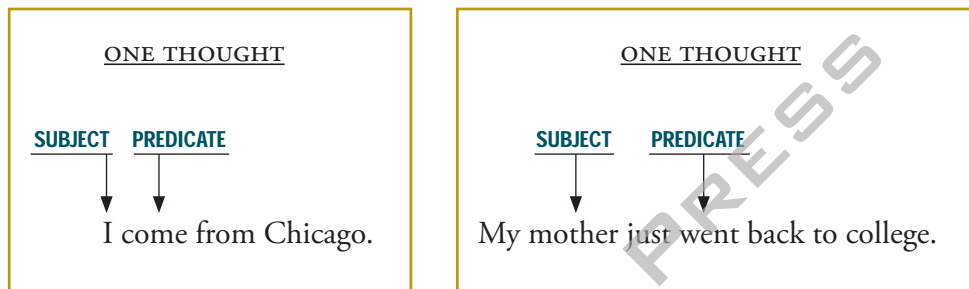


How can we fix this problem? We can fix it by adding some punctuation, in this case, a period. Yet, these two thoughts are so different, they even belong in different paragraphs.

I come from Chicago.

My mother just went back to college.

Perfect! Now, we have *two* thoughts, and we have *two* sentences.



## Chapter Review: Parts of a Sentence

We use two systems to organize language and grammar:

- Parts of Speech
- Parts of a Sentence

The two essential parts of a sentence are:

- simple subject:  
tells us who or what does something in that sentence;
- simple predicate:  
tells us what the subject does.

We always make the simple subject from a noun.

We always make a simple predicate from a verb.

Every **complete** sentence has

- a subject
  - a predicate
- and**
- expresses a complete thought.





If you don't have *both* a **SUBJECT** and a **PREDICATE** in your sentence, or if your sentence does not express a **COMPLETE THOUGHT**, you have a

**SENTENCE FRAGMENT** (also called an incomplete sentence)

If **any group of words**

- has a **SUBJECT** and a **PREDICATE**

**-and-**

- that group of words can stand alone,  
we call it an **INDEPENDENT CLAUSE**.

We can easily turn any **INDEPENDENT CLAUSE** into a sentence merely by adding punctuation: a period, an exclamation mark, or a question mark.

Each sentence expresses one and only one thought. One Sentence = One Thought.

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