

The Subject and the Predicate

Sentences

Sentences

- Homer preens.
- Homer loves his blanket.
- Homer eats.
- Homer eats crap.
- The fat bald guy eats crap.
- The fat bald guy eats vast quantities of artery-hardening crap.
- The fat bald guy throws the dog a bone.

verb

Sentences encode meaning through predication.

Something is said (predicated) about the subject.

Predication Examples



Homer eats.

subject predicate



Homer eats crap.

verb
argument

Homer eats: Brooks, J. L., Groening, M., & Simon, S. (Executive Producers). (2015, January 25). TONIGHT: Elon Musk arrives in Springfield. Be there at 8/7c. [Facebook, Timeline Photos] Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/TheSimpsons/photos/a.473850413696.246070.29534858696/10152677735098697>; Homer & donut: Fox Flash (2006) "Homer Simpson". Wikimedia Commons.

Predication Examples



Homer eats.

subject predicate



Homer eats crap.

subject predicate

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Predication Examples



Homer eats.

subject predicate



Homer eats lots of crap.

subject predicate

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Predication Examples



Homer eats.

subject predicate



Homer eats lots of crap.

subject noun preposition noun

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Predication Examples



Homer eats.

subject predicate



The fat bald guy eats lots of crap.

subject

predicate

↓
noun
phrase

Homer eats: Brooks, J. L., Groening, M., & Simon, S. (Executive Producers). (2015, January 25). TONIGHT: Elon Musk arrives in Springfield. Be there at 8/7c. [Facebook, Timeline Photos] Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/TheSimpsons/photos/a.473850413696.246070.29534858696/10152677735098697>; Homer & donut: Fox Flash (2006) "Homer Simpson". Wikimedia Commons.

Predication Examples



Homer eats.

subject predicate



The fat bald guy eats lots of crap.

central
noun

predicate

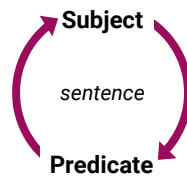
Homer eats: Brooks, J. L., Groening, M., & Simon, S. (Executive Producers). (2015, January 25). TONIGHT: Elon Musk arrives in Springfield. Be there at 8/7c. [Facebook, Timeline Photos] Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/TheSimpsons/photos/a.473850413696.246070.29534858696/10152677735098697>; Homer & donut: Fox Flash (2006) "Homer Simpson". Wikimedia Commons.

A Closer Look at the Subject and Predicate

Circular Definition

Subject → **entity** about which something is predicated

Predicate → state or action that is being said about **some entity**



A Closer Look at the Subject and Predicate



The fat bald guy.



Eats lots of crap.

Homer: Brooks, J. L., Groening, M., & Simon, S. (Executive Producers). (2015, January 25). [Facebook, Timeline Photos] Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/TheSimpsons/photos/a.473850413696.246070.29534858696/10152968458033697>; Homer & donut: Fox Flash (2006) "Homer Simpson". Wikimedia Commons; Fast food: seamartini/iStock/Getty Images

A Closer Look at the Subject and Predicate



The fat bald guy eats lots of crap.

subject

The Noun Phrase about
which the sentence
predicates something

Homer: Brooks, J. L., Groening, M., & Simon, S. (Executive Producers). (2015, January 25). [Facebook, Timeline Photos] Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/TheSimpsons/photos/a.473850413696.246070.29534858696/10152968458033697>; Homer & donut: Fox Flash (2006) "Homer Simpson". Wikimedia Commons; Fast food: seamartini/ISTock/Getty Images

Subject/Object Morphology



He is after me. Jim is after him.

subject object

~~He is after I.~~

~~Jim is after he.~~

Can we
replace **me**
with **I**?

Bull: Tigatelu/ISTock/Getty Images; Runners: Vasilyevlara/ISTock/Getty Images; Hand: Noedelhap/ISTock/Thinkstock

Subject/Object Morphology



He is after me.
 subject object

Jim is after him.

~~Him is after me.~~
 Can we
 replace **He**
 with **Him**?

~~Jim is after he.~~

Bull: Tigatelu/iStock/Getty Images; Runners: Vasilyevlara/iStock/Getty Images; Hand: Noedelhap/iStock/Thinkstock

Predicate

Can we
 replace **The
 fat bald guy**
 with **Him**?



The fat bald guy eats lots of crap.
 predicate

The Verb Phrase that predicates
 something about the subject

The Verb Phrase is sometimes
 called "the predicate phrase"

Homer: Fox Flash (2006) "Homer Simpson", Wikimedia Commons.; Hand: Noedelhap/iStock/Thinkstock

Predicate

Can we
replace **The
fat bald guy**
with **He**?



The fat bald guy eats lots of crap.

predicate

The Verb Phrase that predicates
something about the subject

The Verb Phrase is sometimes
called "the predicate phrase"

Homer: Fox Flash (2006) "Homer Simpson". Wikimedia Commons.; Hand: Noedelhap/iStock/Thinkstock

Predicate

Predicate (V_1)



Homer preens.

- Simple predication
- Intransitive
- No Noun Phrase is implicated by the verb other than the subject.

Predicate (V_2)



Homer loves his blanket.

- Transitive predication
- One other Noun Phrase is implicated by the verb besides the subject; usually the (direct) object.

Predicate (V_3)



Homer gives Mindy a kiss.

- Ditransitive predication
- Two other Noun Phrases are implicated by the verb besides the subject; usually the direct object and the indirect (or oblique) object.

Homer preens: Brooks, J. L., Groening, M., & Simon, S./ Facebook, 2015; Homer smiles: Brooks, J. L., Groening, M., & Simon, S./ Facebook, 2015; Blanket: AptitudeAgency/iStock/Thinkstock; Homer kiss: Brooks, J. L., Groening, M., & Simon, S./ Facebook, 2015.

A Closer Look at the Subject and Predicate

Intransitive (V_1)



Homer preens.

One argument
subject

Transitive subject → object



Homer loves his blanket.

Two arguments
• subject
• (direct object)

Ditransitive subject ↔ object object



Homer gives Mindy a kiss.

Three arguments
• subject
• direct object
• indirect/oblique object

Homer preens: Brooks, J. L., Groening, M., & Simon, S./ Facebook, 2015; Homer smiles: Brooks, J. L., Groening, M., & Simon, S./ Facebook, 2015; Blanket: AptitudeAgency/Stock/Thinkstock; Homer kiss: Brooks, J. L., Groening, M., & Simon, S./ Facebook, 2015.

References

Slide 8: Homer preens: Brooks, J. L., Groening, M., & Simon, S. (Executive Producers). (2015, August 15). *Flashback Friday*-. [Facebook, Timeline Photos] Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/TheSimpsons/photos/a.473850413696.246070.29534858696/10153107665293697>; Homer smiles: Brooks, J. L., Groening, M., & Simon, S. (Executive Producers). (2015, January 25). [Facebook, Timeline Photos] Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/TheSimpsons/photos/a.473850413696.246070.29534858696/10152968458033697>; Blanket: AptitudeAgency/Stock/Thinkstock; Homer kiss: Brooks, J. L., Groening, M., & Simon, S. (Executive Producers). (2015, July 13). *How to get someone out of bed on a Monday morning*. [Facebook, Timeline Photos] Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/TheSimpsons/photos/a.473850413696.246070.29534858696/10153037696063697>.

Slide 9: Homer preens: Brooks, J. L., Groening, M., & Simon, S. (Executive Producers). (2015, August 15). *Flashback Friday*-. [Facebook, Timeline Photos] Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/TheSimpsons/photos/a.473850413696.246070.29534858696/10153107665293697>; Homer smiles: Brooks, J. L., Groening, M., & Simon, S. (Executive Producers). (2015, January 25). [Facebook, Timeline Photos] Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/TheSimpsons/photos/a.473850413696.246070.29534858696/10152968458033697>; Blanket: AptitudeAgency/Stock/Thinkstock; Homer kiss: Brooks, J. L., Groening, M., & Simon, S. (Executive Producers). (2015, July 13). *How to get someone out of bed on a Monday morning*. [Facebook, Timeline Photos] Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/TheSimpsons/photos/a.473850413696.246070.29534858696/10153037696063697>.