

Subject and Predicate

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In this chapter, learn:

- how to divide a sentence into subject and predicate
- the grammatical nature of subject and predicate

Every sentence has two parts: the subject and the predicate. The subject is the first part of a sentence. It tells us who or what the sentence is about.

Ajayita is a teacher of German.

Ajayita's school is in Bhubaneswar.

Lucky and Saumya play chess every evening.

The predicate comes after the subject and contains a verb. It tells us something about the subject.

Ajayita is a teacher of German.

Ajayita's school is in Bhubaneswar.

Lucky and Saumya play chess every evening.

Subject: first part of the sentence; tells us what or who the sentence is about

Jerry's sisters

attend piano classes on weekends.

Predicate: comes after the subject; contains a verb; tells something about the subject

■ Subject: Form and Function

The subject in a sentence is usually a noun or a noun phrase. Other types of words, when they occur as subjects, behave like nouns.



Fruits contain vitamins. (noun as subject)

The exercises in the maths textbook are difficult.
(noun phrase as subject)

Smoking is banned here. (gerund* as subject)

Imperative sentences may appear to have no subject. That is because the subject in them is *you*, which is implied, and so it is omitted.

(*You*) Write the heading first.

(*You*) Raise your left leg.

(*You*) Add a little water to the batter.

Questions, or interrogative sentences, do not start with the subject. The subject in questions comes after the verb that starts the sentences.

Is *Ajayita* a teacher of German?

Do *Lucky and Saumya* play chess every evening?

Are *the maths exercises* difficult?

The subject does not come first in exclamatory sentences either.

How cute *the baby* is!

What a brave *effort*!

How great *the teachings of Gandhi* are!



■ Predicate: Form and Function

The predicate must contain a verb. It can also contain other elements like objects, complements or adverbials, all depending on the nature of the verb.

Merin *sings*. (verb-only predicate)

Merin *sings* a song. (predicate with a verb and object)

Neha *told* us an interesting story. (predicate with a verb and two objects: direct [*an interesting story*] and indirect [*us*])

This place *looks* familiar.

(predicate with a verb and a complement)

Renuka *met* Merin in the park.

(predicate with a verb, an object and an adverbial)



*A gerund is an -ing noun.

EXERCISE A

Circle the subjects and underline the predicates in the following sentences.

1. Afsal has bought a wall-mounting bookshelf.
2. The wax polish looks like ice cream.
3. Did you leave the back door open?
4. Baking a cake is not as easy as eating it.
5. Kalyan, Namrata and Madhu have decided to learn yoga.
6. I found a dead rat inside the wardrobe.
7. Are all Samuel's brothers sailors?
8. The trainer is running around the playground.
9. Have you submitted the application form?
10. Don't open that box.
11. Will you bring that bouquet to the lecture hall?
12. Stop the players from leaving the ground.



EXERCISE B

Write your own subjects for the following predicates.

1. ... is an amazing dancer.
2. ... love to go rafting in the river.
3. ... bought me a watch and a cap.
4. ... becomes weak with age.
5. ... are the best engineers we have.
6. ... start fighting whenever their parents are away.
7. ... has booked three tickets for the evening show.
8. ... will not reach here tomorrow.



EXERCISE C

Write your own predicates for the following subjects.

1. Nina and I ...
2. Some of the onions in this bag ...
3. Birds ...
4. Jennifer ...
5. She ...
6. This island ...
7. An actor ...
8. Those who have scored less than 30 ...

