

SUBJECTS & PREDICATES

SUBJECTS

Subjects are entities, which accomplish action (i.e., the doer of the action) or experience a state of being.

SINGULAR, PLURAL, COMPOUND, AND COMPLEX SUBJECTS

Subjects can be simple (*singular or plural*), *compound*, or *complex*. However, they are without a doubt the main entity referred to in the sentence.

EX:

Elvis is a rock star. (Simple + Singular)

The Rolling Stones are rock stars. (Simple + Plural)

Eve and **Missy Elliott** are Hip-Hop divas, not rock stars. (Compound)

The Flying Burrito Brothers are an early country-rock band (a Phrase)

Working hard to get songs heard makes rock stars. (a Complex Clause)

Note: Typically, Complex Subjects are either phrases or clauses.

SIMPLE AND COMPLETE SUBJECTS

Subjects may be categorized as *Simple* or *Complete*.

EX:

The blue fish will be easy to catch.

The blue fish (Complete)

Notice how the Complete Subject contains THE, an article/determiner; BLUE, an adjective; and, FISH, a noun)

Fish (Simple)

Notice how the Simple Subject contains only the noun itself.

Subjects may be comprised of nouns, pronouns, a verbal (a gerund or infinitive), noun phrases, or clauses.

NOUN PHRASES

Another type of subject is a Noun Phrase. A Noun Phrase is comprised of a noun and any modifiers

EX:
Fish
A Fish
A Flying fish
The Largest of the Flying Fish

NOUN CLAUSES

Another type of subject is a Noun Clause. Clauses are complex subjects as they are not easily understood or identifiable.

EX:
Letting off the gas saved our lives inevitably.
Working for the children's museum is a commendable yet stressful endeavor.

PREDICATES

Predicates are comprised of the main verb and anything following it (e.g. phrases, dependent clauses, modifiers).

EX:

Sam **loves to go bowling**.

Hector **has his own bowling ball**.

The predicate includes the verb LOVES and the phrase TO GO BOWLING.

Predicates may be singular or compound.

EX:

Sam **is sad**. (Singular)

Hector **is sad and is crying**. (Compound)

COMPOUND PREDICATES VERSUS COMPOUND SENTENCES

Note: Knowledge of Compound Predicates is important. Compound Predicates are often mistakenly provided commas.

EX: (incorrect)
Hector is sad, and is crying.

The comma placed before the AND is incorrect. Commas are only used before a conjunction (e.g., And, But, So, etc.) if a compound sentence is present. Typically, you can identify that a subject is present on the other side of the conjunction (if the sentence is compound).

EX:

Hector is sad, and **he** is crying.

Notice that two sentences are present:

Hector is sad.

He is crying.