

## Simple Sentences (the basics)

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A simple sentence is made up of a complete subject – the “who” or “what” the sentence is about (a noun or pronoun or a verb acting as a noun, plus all its modifiers) – and a complete predicate – the information being given about the subject (a verb/verb phrase plus all its modifiers).

For example: The complete subject of the sentence "My cat is asleep on the couch." is "my cat" because the sentence is about "my cat," and the predicate is "is asleep on the couch" because that's the information being given about "my cat."

My cat	is asleep on the couch.
complete subject	complete predicate

The simple subject is the “who” or “what,” stripped of modifiers, and the simple predicate is the main verb/verb phrase, stripped of modifiers.

For example: The simple subject of "My cat is asleep on the couch." is "cat," and the simple predicate is "is." (The simple subject will be color-coded in red and the simple predicate in green.)

My **cat** **is** asleep on the couch.

To better understand the structure of the sentence, let's identify its parts of speech:

My	<b>cat</b>	<b>is</b>	asleep	on the couch.
Possessive Pronoun	noun	verb	adjective	prepositional phrase

More examples of simple sentences:

Jamie is a friend of mine.

She hiked to the top of the mountain.

Snowboarding used to be his favorite sport. (The subject is a verb used as a noun.)

To be a good friend is my goal. (The subject is a verb used as a noun.)

Simple subjects and predicates can also be compound (more than one):

Jamie is a friend of mine. (simple subject)

Jamie and Paul are friends of mine. (compound subject)

She hiked to the top of the mountain. (simple predicate)

She biked and hiked to the top of the mountain (compound predicate)

For a sentence to be complete, it must have a subject (present or implied) and a predicate (at least one verb) and be able to stand (make sense) on its own (express a complete thought).

Examples of complete sentences:

My friend Rosie wants to be an astronaut when she grows up.

subject

predicate

(you)

Put that cupcake down!

(you)

Run!

implied subject

predicate

implied subject

predicate

Examples of incomplete sentences (sentence fragments):

Helps the baseball team. (no subject)

The blue bird on top of that tree. (no predicate)

Under the kitchen sink. (no subject or predicate)

Because I was cold. (doesn't stand on its own)