

# SUBJECT AND PREDICATE

**The two essential parts of every complete sentence are the subject and the predicate.** The **subject** is the person, thing, or idea about which something is said. The **predicate** tells something or asks something about the subject.

COMPLETE SUBJECT	COMPLETE PREDICATE
Children	played.
The happy children	played in the sandbox.
The new car	looked great.
Happiness	is sometimes hard to define.

**The Simple Predicate or Verb.** In every complete predicate, the most important word is the **verb**. The simple predicate of the sentence is the verb. The verb may consist of more than one word: *have sung, might have gone*. When parts of the verb are interrupted by a modifier, the modifier is *not* part of the verb: *were not lost, did not seem* (“not” is an adverb).

**Identifying the Subject and Verb.** Underline the verb in each of the following sentences. Draw a circle around each subject. Watch out for modifiers.

Examples: (Mary) cautiously opened the door.  
(She) did not see anyone.

1. Miss Williams is going to New York tomorrow.
2. Your gloves are certainly dirty.
3. Jo Anne's question surprised me.
4. I have never quite forgiven her.
5. The Martins have played eighteen holes of golf today.
6. The students had never finished their work so quickly before.
7. Mrs. Black has always made her own clothes.
8. The boys will ask the doctor for advice.
9. After his long flight, Tom was very tired.
10. The bridge was never completed.
11. Aunt Helen has just arrived for a week's visit.
12. The old man carefully made his way down the busy street.
13. The witness answered the questions simply and directly.
14. Our team has never beaten yours.
15. The members of our class have just elected officers.
16. Sue has never visited the South.
17. Mr. Gonzales often walks his dog in the evening.
18. The children have been playing outside all day.
19. *Animal Farm* is one of my favorite books.
20. Aunt Marian will prepare Thanksgiving dinner for fourteen people.

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