

# What is a sentence?

- A sentence is the basic unit of thought in the American language. This lesson will help you learn to write a complete, coherent sentence.

# Parts of a sentence.

- A sentence has both a subject and a predicate and expresses a complete thought.
  - The snow is falling.
- This is a sentence because it names what the sentence is talking about (snow) and tells us something about the snow (that it is falling). It also expresses a complete thought.

# The Subject

- The part of the sentence that tells us what the sentence is about is called the **subject**.
- The subject can be one word or several words.
- The **complete subject** consists of all the words that go together to make up the subject.

# The Subject...Complete

- The complete subjects are highlighted in each of the following sentences.
  - **A loud argument** broke out at the game.
  - **The worried, young pilot** read the storm warning.
  - **The newspaper article** mentioned our newest menu item.

# The Subject...Simple

- Every complete subject contains a **simple subject**.
- The simple subject, which is a noun or pronoun, is the most important word in the complete subject.
- It is the word that names what the sentence is about.

# The Subject...Simple

- Review the complete subjects highlighted in the sentences. Which word is the most important in each complete subject?
  - **A loud argument** broke out at the game.
  - **The worried, young pilot** read the storm warning.
  - **The newspaper article** mentioned our newest menu item.

# Practice #1 of 3 (Subject)

- Read the following sentences.
- In each one, identify the complete subject by circling it.
- Then underline the simple subject.
  - My severe stomachache seemed better at the doctor's office.
  - Our new mail carrier slipped on the ice this morning.
  - The longest, dreariest road lies between the Nebraska borders.

# The Predicate

- The part of the sentence that explains something about the subject is called the predicate.
- The predicate can be one word or several words.
- The **complete predicate** consists of all the words that go together to make up the predicate.



# The Predicate...Complete

- The complete predicates are highlighted in each of the following sentences.
  - The loud argument **broke out at the game.**
  - The worried, young pilot **read the storm warning.**
  - The newspaper article **mentioned our newest menu item.**
  - Mrs. Dawson **is our most difficult customer.**
  - My neighbor **rarely complains about snow.**

# The Predicate...Simple

- Every complete predicate contains a **simple predicate**, or verb.
- The simple predicate is the word that shows action or helps make a statement about the subject.

# The Predicate...Simple

- Look at the predicates highlighted in the sentences. Which word shows action or helps to make the statement about the subject?
  - The loud argument **broke out at the game.**
  - The worried, young pilot **read the storm warning.**
  - The newspaper article **mentioned our newest menu item.**
  - Mrs. Dawson **is our most difficult customer.**
  - My neighbor **rarely complains about snow.**

# Practice #2 of 3 (Predicate)

- Read the following sentences. In each one, identify the complete predicate by circling it.
- Then underline the simple predicate.
- The purple curtain ripped at the seams.
- Our president always buys some of our competitor's products.
- Dotted print backgrounds are difficult to read.

# Practice #2 of 3 (Predicate)

- Read the following sentences. In each one, identify the complete predicate by circling it.
- Then underline the simple predicate .
- The purple curtain ripped at the seams.
- Our president always buys some of our competitor's products.
- Dotted print backgrounds are difficult to read.

# Compound Subjects & Predicates

- A sentence can have more than one subject joined by *and*, *or*, or *nor* and sharing the same verb.
- This is called a **compound subject**.
- The compound subjects are highlighted in the examples below.
  - **Horace** and **Beth** both asked for a promotion.
  - **Hannah** and **Terri** are the shift supervisors in this department.

# Compound Subjects & Predicates

- A sentence can also have a **compound predicate**: more than one predicate joined by *and*, *or*, or *nor*.
  - Dmitri **wrote** a letter and **sent** it to the personnel department.
  - Horace **called** his supervisor and **asked** for a meeting.

# Clauses

- Like sentences, **clauses** are groups of words that have a subject and a predicate.
- Clauses are either **independent** or **dependent**.



# Independent Clauses

- Independent clauses are groups of words in a sentence that can stand alone, because they express a complete thought.
- The **simple sentence** consists of one independent clause:
  - The snow is falling.

# Independent Clauses

- Sometimes more than one independent clause is included in the same sentence, which is known as a **compound sentence**.
- When this happens, the clauses are separated by a comma and a **conjunction**, or joining word (*and, but, or, for, nor, so, yet*).

# Independent Clauses

- The independent clauses are underlined in the following sentences.
  - A wasp stung me, and I had to go to the hospital for treatment.
  - The door was open, but I was afraid to walk inside.
  - We need to drive a little faster, or we need to get an earlier start.

# Dependent Clauses

- Dependent clauses, also known as subordinate clauses, are groups of words in a sentence that have a subject and predicate but cannot stand alone because they do not express a complete thought:
  - When I saw the snow falling

# Dependent Clauses

- Sometimes sentences are made up of one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses.
- These are known as **complex sentences**.
- In the following sentence, the independent clause is highlighted and the dependent clause is underlined.

- **I put on my heavy coat** when I saw the snow falling.

# Practice #3 of 3 (Clauses)

- Read the following sentences. In each one, identify the dependent clause by circling it.
- Then underline the independent clause.
- Believing that the pages were in the right order, I mailed the manuscript.
- I wanted to renew the lease before the end of the year, because I like the house.
- Whenever the weather forecasters predict rain, the sun shines.
- In the box sitting underneath the desk, I found my hat.
- I called Tom again, and the new programs finally arrived.
- I went for a walk today, and I mailed your letter.