

The *subject* tells whom or what the sentence is about. The *predicate* tells something about the subject. The *simple subject* is the main word that tells whom or what the sentence is about. The *simple predicate*, or verb, is the entire verb phrase. This will always include helping verbs.

Remember:

- An object of a preposition can never be the subject of a sentence. (Ex: One of the players made a touchdown. *One* is the subject. *Of the players* is the prepositional phrase.)
- An adverb is never part of the verb. (Ex: The girl did not decide to call her parents. *Did decide* is the verb; *not* is the adverb and not part of the verb, or simple predicate.)

Exercise 1 Directions: In each sentence below, circle the simple subject and underline the verb.

1. The Gómez family goes to a nearby park almost every weekend.
2. The two youngest boys enjoy playing soccer with their friends.
3. The older girls prefer to go bird-watching through the park's beautiful trails.
4. Sometimes the entire family goes hiking together.
5. Along day at the park is a favorite pastime for the Gómez family.
6. Modern composer Dan Welcher was born in 1948.
7. Welcher earned degrees from the Eastman School of Music and Manhattan School of Music.
8. Dan Welcher is one of the most original and exciting modern American composers.
9. The people of Mexico have a great appreciation of his work.
10. Is Rivera known for any particular style?
11. His murals of Mexico's social problems are famous.
12. We looked at that painting of two Mexican women with a baby.
13. How does the artist achieve the feeling of tranquillity in that picture?
14. What do you think of the muted colors?
15. Don't those soft pastel colors convey a sense of calm?
16. There is a copy of that picture in this brochure about the artist.
17. What is the title of that painting?
18. Here is an article about Rivera.
19. Which years was Rivera in the United States?
20. Have you seen photographs of his murals?
21. Some of the murals show different aspects of Mexican history.
22. Do you know about his wife, Frida Kahlo?
23. Wasn't Kahlo an accomplished artist, also?
24. There have been many great artists of the twentieth century.

Compound Subjects and Verbs

A *compound subject* consists of two or more subjects that are joined by a conjunction and share a verb. A *compound verb* consists of two or more verbs that share a subject.

Compound Subject Ex: Many **flowers, shrubs,** and **fruit trees** began blooming early this spring.

Compound Verb Ex: The boys **cooked** dinner and also **washed** the dishes.

Exercise 2 Directions: Underline the compound subjects.

25. Exercise, a healthful diet, and sufficient rest are essential for good health.
26. Either Raoul or Marty will win the election.
27. The oaks, the maples, and the sycamores have lost their leaves.
28. Greta or Sheila will water the garden this afternoon.
29. Sheep, goats, and chickens wandered around in the large yard.
30. The musicians, dancers, and actors met for a final dress rehearsal.
31. Either Jon or I will wash the dishes tonight.
32. Did the children and their parents enjoy the camping trip?
33. Randy, Martha, and Jennifer were the top three finishers in the math competition.
34. Will Monday or Tuesday be a good day for a meeting?
35. The police and the fire department responded to the alarm.
36. Planes, trains, and buses are all means of public transportation.
37. Will Victor or Elian answer the question?
38. The hippos and giraffes crowded around the water hole.

Exercise 3 Directions: Underline the compound verbs.

39. The speech will be televised live at noon and rerun at six.
40. I have finished my research and can now write my report.
41. The teacher reviewed the material and asked each student a question.
42. I put the plants in the sunlight and watered them thoroughly.
43. We talked, laughed, and sang during the long bus ride.
44. Have the students researched the issue or discussed different possibilities yet?
45. I will go to the movies, see a play, or visit a museum this weekend.
46. The actress could sing and dance quite well.
47. Jack put on his coat and went out into the snow.
48. The entertainer juggled several balls and performed acrobatics.
49. Will you pack your bags and confirm your airline reservations today?
50. The audience rose to their feet and applauded loudly.