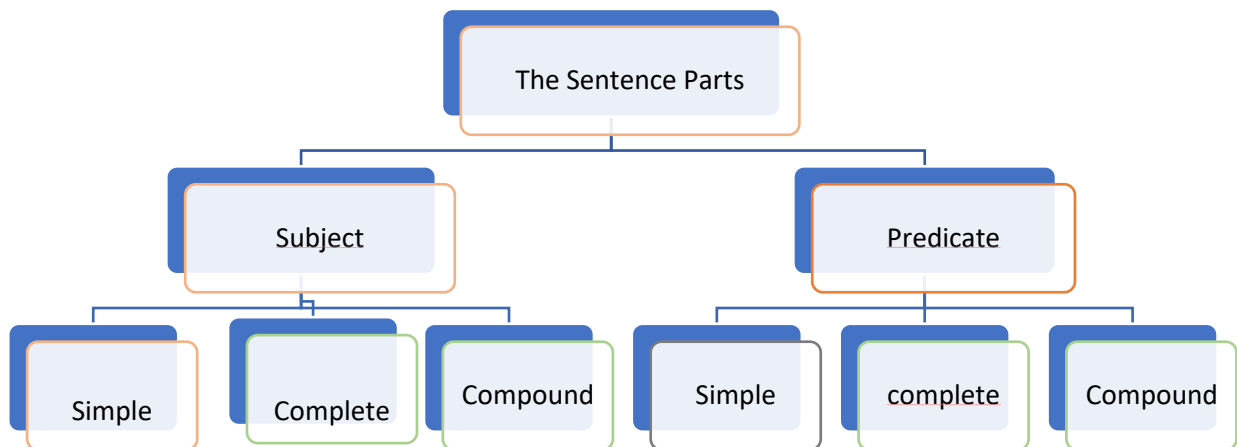


The Sentence (Subjects and Predicates)



Complete Subjects and Predicates

A sentence is a group of words with two main parts: a complete subject and a complete predicate. Together these parts express a complete thought.

Simple Subjects and Predicates

The simple subject is the **essential** noun, pronoun, or group of words acting as a noun that cannot be left out of the complete subject.

The simple predicate is the essential verb or verb phrase that cannot be left out of the complete predicate.

Compound Subjects and Verbs

Compound Subjects

A compound subject is two or more subjects that have the same verb and are joined by a conjunction such as '**and**' or '**or**'.

Compound Verbs

A compound verb is two or more verbs that have the same subject and are joined by a conjunction such as '**and**' or '**or**'.

The order of subjects and verbs

In the vast majority of cases, the central clause elements, subjects (S), predicate verbs (V), objects (O), and predicatives (P) occur in a fixed order. However, there are a few cases in English where the order between subject and predicate verb is inverted, that is, when the predicate verb (or one of the verbs that belong to the predicate verb) actually precedes the subject. This is called *inversion*.

The most common instance of inverted word-order is found

- in **yes/no questions**
- with the **initial negative elements**
- instead of **'if' in conditionals** with **'had' 'were' and 'should'**
- after **'so + adjective ... that'**
- When we put an **adverbial expression of place** at the beginning on the sentence
- In "there be" and "here be" structures

Requirements of a Written Sentence

- A capital letter at the beginning.
- Punctuation at the end (a period, a question mark, an exclamation point)
- A subject
- A predicate containing a finite verb
- Standard word order (commonly subject-verb-object or complement)
- A core idea (complete thought) that can stand alone.

Kinds of Sentences

- A **declarative sentence** expresses a statement. It ends with a period.
- An **interrogative sentence** asks a question. It ends with a question mark.
- An **imperative sentence** tells or asks someone to do something. It usually ends with a period but may end with an exclamation point.
- An **exclamatory sentence** shows strong feeling. It always ends with an exclamation point.