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Subject and Predicate

Every sentence can be divided into the following two parts. They are:

1. Subject
2. Predicate

Subject : The word in a sentence about which something is said is called the subject.

Predicate : Whatever is said about the subject is called the Predicate.

Study the following table carefully :

Table-I

Subject	Predicate
I	have revised my lessons.
They	are playing cricket.
Tina	is sitting in the park.
Seema	baked a cake at home.
Raman	closed the gate and went in.

It is not necessary that a sentence should always begin with the Subject. In Imperative Sentences the subject is hidden or implied and as such, it begins with the verb.

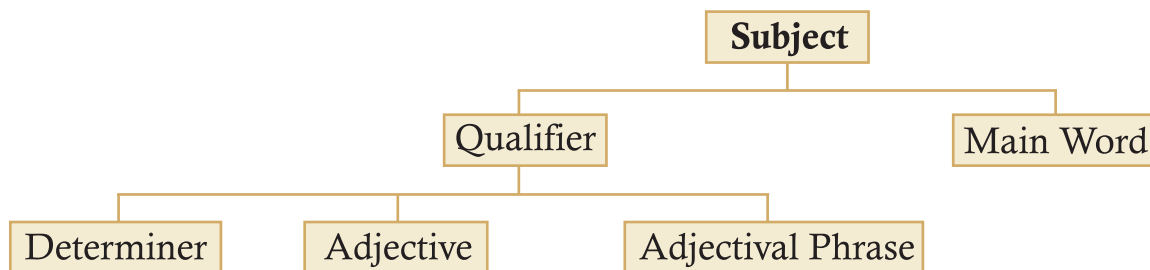
Read the following sentences:

1. Go to your seat.
2. Switch off the light.
3. Take exercise regularly.
4. Thank you for the gift.
5. May God bless you!



Parts of Subject

A Subject may have only one word or more than one words:



If only one word has been used as the subject, we call it the Head/Main word. (as in Table-I)

Remember: If only one word is used as the subject of a sentence then it should be a Noun, Pronoun, Gerund (Verb-Ist Form + ing) or Infinitive (to + Verb-Ist Form).

Now read the following sentences:

Table-II

	Subject	Predicate
Qualifier	Head Word	
My	friends	are playing cricket.
That	man	is honest.
An	ant	is a small insect.
The	flower	is beautiful.
Few	people	were present in the meeting.

The subject in the above sentences consists of two words. The first word is called the Qualifier and the second word is the Head/Main Word.

Remember: A Qualifier is always followed by a noun as Head/Main Word.

Table-III

Subject			Predicate
<i>Qualifier</i>	<i>Adjective</i>	<i>Head Word</i>	
My	old	grandfather	do not use spectacles.
That	naughty	boy	broke the glass.
A	big	elephant	was going on the road.
The	ripe	mango	was delicious.
Few	healthy	babies	were sleeping.

Remember: If there are two words before the Head/Main Word, then the First one should be a Determiner and the second one should be an Adjective.

Table-IV

Subject		Predicate		
<i>Qualifier</i>	<i>Adjective</i>	<i>Head Word</i>	<i>Adjectival Phrase</i>	
The	smart	boy	in the hall	is my cousin.
That	old	man	in our village	is very wise.
My	elder	brother	in Mumbai	is a doctor.
The	red	flower	in the garden	is beautiful.
My	best	friend	in the class	is very intelligent.

Remember: An Adjectival Phrase comes after the Head/Main Word.

Note

'It' and 'There' can also be used as the Subject of a sentence.

Table-V

Subject	Predicate
It	is a very hot day.
There	are many flowers in the garden.
It	has stopped raining.
There	is a big temple in our village.
It	was the month of November.



Parts of Predicate

Predicates can be divided into Verb, Object and Complement.

(i) The Predicate part may have only one word.

Read the following sentences:

Table-I

Subject	Predicate
The dog	barks.
Birds	fly.
My friend	laughs.
He	jumps.
We	read.

Note

If there is only one word in the Predicate part, it should be a Verb.

(ii) The Predicate part may have two or more words; a verb, an object or some other parts of speech.

Read the following sentences:

Table-II

Subject	Predicate	
	Verb	Object
We	play	cricket.
They	go	for swimming.
I	like	to run.
She	reads	a comic book.
We	go	for a walk.

Note

The Object may be a Gerund (Verb-Ist Form + ing) or Infinitive (to + Verb-Ist Form).

Let's Practise



A. Divide the following sentences into subject part and predicate part. Follow the example:

1. The sun rises in the east.

Subject Part : The sun

Predicate Part : rises in the east

2. The dog barked at the stranger.

Subject Part : _____

Predicate Part : _____

3. The little boy is weeping.

Subject Part : _____

Predicate Part : _____

4. Some girls are playing in the park.

Subject Part : _____

Predicate Part : _____

5. A little bird was chirping in the garden.

Subject Part : _____

Predicate Part : _____

6. Delhi is the capital of India.

Subject Part : _____

Predicate Part : _____

7. The train will leave at 3 p.m.

Subject Part : _____

Predicate Part : _____

8. It was a beautiful, sunny morning.

Subject Part : _____

Predicate Part : _____

9. The man killed the snake with a stick.

Subject Part : _____

Predicate Part : _____

10. My younger brother reads in our school.

Subject Part : _____

Predicate Part : _____

B. Put the Subject parts given in brackets in the right order and complete the sentences:

1. _____ is a good magician. (that / woman / tall)
2. _____ is a famous doctor. (his / brother / elder)
3. _____ is a good singer. (that / girl / blue-eyed)
4. _____ is making a noise. (that / boy / corner / in / the)
5. _____ must have opened the door. (mother / his)
6. _____ talk. (dolls / those / new)
7. _____ was given to him on his birthday. (a / watch / beautiful)
8. _____ are pretty. (flowers / in my garden / the red)
9. _____ is tired of all this work. (as well as / he / you)
10. _____ quarrelled. (some / boys / naughty)
11. _____ stole a piece of bone. (hungry / dog / the)
12. _____ examined the patient. (a / doctors / of / team)
13. _____ waited for the leopard. (villagers / alert / the)
14. _____ sat under a shady tree. (the / weary / travellers)
15. _____ attacked the villagers. (bees / of / a / swarm)

C. Complete the following sentences by filling in the blanks with the Predicate parts given in brackets. You have to put the Predicate parts in the right order:

1. Life _____ . (not / of / bed / roses / is / a)
2. A clever fox _____ . (standing / the / was / under / tree)
3. My friend _____ . (me / dinner / to / invited / has)
4. We _____ . (others / at / not / laugh / should)
5. My Father _____ . (Principal / the / of / is / this / college)
6. You _____ . (duty / well / did / your)
7. You _____ . (to / ill / be / seem)
8. We _____ . (journey / on / our / began / Friday)
9. The teacher _____ . (absent / monitor / the / found)
10. Tony _____ . (regularly / my / home / comes)