

## Simple Sentences

***Simple sentences are independent clauses.  
They contain a **subject** and a **predicate**.***

**Rule 1:** Simple sentences can be very **short**, consisting of only one word (a noun) for the subject and one word (a verb) for the predicate. The noun is called the **simple subject**, and the verb is the **simple predicate**.

**John** **laughed**.

**Rule 2:** Simple sentences can be **long**, although they still consist of one subject (a noun and modifiers) and one predicate (a verb and other elements). The noun is called the **simple subject**, and the verb is the **simple predicate**.

The tall, good-looking **boy** with the curly blond hair **laughed** uproariously at his best friend's suggestion.

**Exercise A. Identify the subject and predicate in these simple sentences. Circle the simple subject and underline the simple predicate.**

1. My best friend in the whole world is coming over to my house to visit me this afternoon.
2. Three beautiful little kittens looked up at me from inside a box of old clothes.
3. At the stroke of midnight, the carriage turned into a huge orange pumpkin.
4. A really friendly old man with long white whiskers lives in the apartment above my aunt's and uncle's apartment.
5. Several of her favorite romantic love songs were playing on the radio that afternoon in the park.
6. Cool, deep, dark blue water flowed through the rough limestone rocks in the gorge.
7. One-hundred fifty-five dollars is certainly a lot of money for a young person living with his or her parents.
8. The large red book sitting on the hall table was a dictionary published by an encyclopedia company in the United States.
9. The three girls carried back packs filled with books, food, candy, clothes, make-up, pens, paper, hairbrushes, and other assorted items.
10. I don't remember the name of that tall, thin actor with the sparkling blue eyes.

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**Rule 3:** Simple sentences can be **declarative** or **interrogative**.

**You can shop** at the mall on the weekend. (**declarative**)

**Can you shop** at the mall on the weekend? (**interrogative**)

**Exercise B. Identify the subject and predicate in these simple sentences. Circle the simple subject and underline the simple predicate.**

1. Who can tell me the answer to the question about the Civil War?
2. The boy in the third row explained the role of slavery in the Civil War.
3. Several of the students were thinking about the final examinations in the history course.
4. Which of the following words in this list have been misspelled?
5. Did Mary have time to call her brother this morning?
6. One of her younger cousins is having a birthday next Saturday.
7. Will you share your lunch with the new girl in class?
8. On Fridays, we usually go to the movies in the afternoon with my little nephew, Jerry.
9. Where in the world did your sister put her purse and car keys?
10. When are you planning to come home from summer camp?

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**Rule 4:** Simple sentences can have a verb in any **tense** (past, present, future), **mood** (indicative or imperative), or **voice** (active or passive).

My **friend** **shops** at the mall on the weekend. (**present**)

My **friend** **shopped** at the mall last weekend. (**past**)

My **friend** **will shop** at the mall next weekend. (**future**)

**You** **shop** at the mall every weekend. (**indicative**)

**Shop** at the mall this weekend! (**imperative**; subject is “**you**” understood)

The next **player** at bat **hit** the baseball into left field. (**active**)

The **baseball** **was hit** into left field by the next player at bat. (**passive**)

**Exercise C. Identify the subject and predicate in these simple sentences. Circle the simple subject and underline the simple predicate.**

1. Three years ago my baby sister was born on the first day of January.
2. Put your dirty clothes in the basket in the upstairs bathroom, please.
3. The older boys were given a chance to buy raffle tickets after the meeting.
4. Most of the time my classmates were wearing heavy clothes in the winter months.
5. The shiny yellow toy was easily caught by the eager collie puppy.
6. Both of my brothers will be in Oregon next week for the festival.
7. Please don't leave your wet raincoat lying on the dining room chair.
8. She had been wondering about that idea for quite a while now.
9. Her left arm was badly broken at the wrist during the automobile accident.
10. In 2010, the leaders of the nations of this planet will face many important environmental problems.

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**Rule 5:** Simple sentences can have a **compound subject**.

Simon and Garfunkel recorded an album that year. (**compound subject**)

America's best known novelists, journalists, and editors attended a conference in New York last week. (**compound subject**)

Yellow-throated warblers, red-breasted robins, and flightless rails were pictured in her new bird identification guide. (**compound subject; nouns separated by modifiers**)

**Exercise D.** Identify the subject and predicate in these simple sentences. Circle the nouns in the subject and underline the simple predicate.

1. You and I know the names of these kinds of flowers.
2. Frisky squirrels, tiny, jewel-like hummingbirds, white-tailed deer, quick little wild bunnies, and small black voles were hiding in the garden.
3. Barbara Kingsolver and Amy Tan are two of my sister's favorite novelists.
4. Every six weeks or so, her next-door neighbors, younger cousins, and grade school classmates came over to her house for a little tea party.
5. Are the violinists and the cellists ready to begin playing the nocturne yet?
6. The daily newspapers, television news, and other media were not given enough information about the emergency.
7. Even in the middle of the summer, Jan and her dog liked to stay outdoors all afternoon long.
8. Could you and your mother please meet with me after school next Wednesday?
9. Three eggs, two cups of milk, a package of cheese, and chopped ham went into the bowl to make a quiche.
10. Are tomatoes, potatoes, onions, and garlic your favorite foods?

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**Rule 6:** Simple sentences can have a **compound predicate**.

Marianne sang, danced, and played the violin with equal competence, passion, and enthusiasm. (**compound predicate**)

Her last semester in school, the brilliant student received top marks on all her final exams, graduated with honors, and was interviewed for a junior faculty position at the university. (**compound predicate; verbs separated by modifiers**)

**Exercise E. Identify the subject and predicate in these simple sentences. Circle the simple subject and underline the compound simple predicate .**

1. The telephone on the principal's desk rang and rang and then suddenly stopped ringing.
2. Who is coming to the party and bringing the ice cream?
3. Several of the trees at the arboretum had leafed out already and were looking very full and beautiful.
4. The man in the brown raincoat slipped quietly around the corner and hid in a dark doorway.
5. Wash and dry your hair first thing in the morning.
6. Will you sing me a song, show me a few dance steps, and then tell me a story?
7. The girls hurried home with their packages under their arms, rushed up the steps into the family room, and dropped all the boxes on the floor in front of their mother.
8. He didn't eat anything for supper or drink anything at all that evening.
9. Will the three of you please come over here, sit down on this bench, and fill out these forms?
10. Last week she walked in the park for several hours in the morning, had a healthy and delicious lunch with her friend in the middle of the afternoon, and then slept like a log all night long.

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**Rule 7:** Simple sentences can have both a **compound subject** and a **compound predicate**.

The mashed **avocado**, minced **garlic**, olive **oil**, balsamic **vinegar**, **mayonnaise**, and lemon-flavored **pepper** **should be blended** thoroughly, **whipped** briefly for a light consistency, and **served** with warm tortillas.  
(**compound subject** and **compound predicate**)

**Exercise F.** Identify the subject and the predicate in these simple sentences. Circle the noun parts of the compound subject and underline the verb parts of the compound predicate.

1. A belted kingfisher, a robin, and a red cardinal sat on the tree branch for a few seconds and then flew away.
2. Did the math teacher and the history teacher look in the lunchroom or check in the auditorium for the missing books?
3. At the last minute, the melted marshmallows and the chocolate should be placed on the graham cracker, held briefly over the campfire, and eaten immediately.
4. Bright yellow daisies, purple coneflowers, orange and red milkweed, and blue forget-me-nots grew rapidly, bloomed beautifully, and reseeded themselves everywhere in her graveled garden path.
5. Will Mary, George, Jean, and Frances come forward, face the audience, and say a few words?
6. Every so often, wild turkeys, deer, and owls can be seen or heard in the forest preserve over by the lake.
7. The boy's varied interests, his unusual talents, and his wonderful ability to concentrate helped him succeed in his studies and made him a fascinating person to talk to as well.
8. Sugar and flour mix together well and give substance to the cookie dough.
9. Have the three winners of the contest and their spouses taken the vacation, bought the car, or asked for the cash instead?
10. The overpowering heat, the smothering humidity, and the lack of breeze made me very uncomfortable and forced me to stay inside the house all day.

## **Simple Sentences** *Review Page*

**Identify the subject and the predicate in these *different types of simple sentences*. Circle the noun (or compound nouns) in the subject and underline the verb (or compound verbs) in the predicate.**

1. Will you go to the store with me to buy some groceries?
2. According to the nutrition magazine, watermelon and tomatoes contain major amounts of a chemical called lycopene and are good for you.
3. Because of the wind and the rain, the trees danced back and forth, threw up their leafy arms, and sang to the sky above.
4. Don't forget to take your vitamins in the morning with a full glass of water.
5. The tennis ball was served across the net, hit back and forth several times, and then dropped in the mud puddle at the back of the court.
6. Have you brushed your teeth, combed your hair, and eaten your breakfast yet?
7. Marianne laughed heartily, crossed her eyes like a crazy person, and stuck her tongue out at me.
8. Place the pens, pencils, erasers, and pads of paper in the top drawer of your desk.
9. His favorite rock group had a new CD for sale at the record store on Main Street.
10. Didn't she love to eat pizza, ice cream, and brownies as a little girl?

## Simple Sentences Answer Key

### Exercise A

(subject / verb)

- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. friend / is coming   | 6. water / flowed   |
| 2. kittens / looked     | 7. dollars / is     |
| 3. carriage / turned    | 8. book / was       |
| 4. man / lives          | 9. girls / carried  |
| 5. songs / were playing | 10. I / do remember |

### Exercise B

(subject / verb)

- |                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. who / can tell               | 6. one / is having     |
| 2. boy / explained              | 7. you / will share    |
| 3. several / were thinking      | 8. we / go             |
| 4. which / have been misspelled | 9. sister / did put    |
| 5. Mary / did have              | 10. you / are planning |

### Exercise C

(subject / verb)

- |                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. sister / was born         | 6. both / will be              |
| 2. you (understood) / put    | 7. you (understood) / do leave |
| 3. boys / were given         | 8. she / had been wondering    |
| 4. classmates / were wearing | 9. arm / was broken            |
| 5. toy / was caught          | 10. leaders / will face        |

### Exercise D

(subject / verb)

1. you and I / know
2. squirrels, hummingbirds, deer, bunnies, and voles / were hiding
3. Barbara Kingsolver and Amy Tan / are
4. neighbors, cousins, and classmates / came
5. violinists and cellists / are
6. newspapers, news, and media / were given
7. Jan and dog / liked
8. you and mother / meet
9. eggs, cups, and package / went
10. tomatoes, potatoes, onions, and garlic / are

## Simple Sentences

### Exercise E

(subject / verb)

1. telephone / rang, rang, and stopped
2. who / is coming and bringing
3. several / had leafed and were looking
4. man / slipped, followed, and hid
5. you (understood) / wash and dry
6. you / will sing, show, and tell
7. girls / hurried, rushed, and dropped
8. he / did eat or drink
9. three / will come, sit, and fill
10. she / walked, had, and slept

### Exercise F

(subject / verb)

1. kingfisher, robin, cardinal / sat and flew
2. teacher and teacher / look and check
3. marshmallows and chocolate / should be placed, held, and eaten
4. daisies, coneflowers, milkweed, and forget-me-nots / grew, bloomed, and reseeded
5. Mary, George, Jean and Frances / come, face, and say
6. turkeys, deer, and owls / can be seen and heard
7. interests, talents, and ability / helped and made
8. sugar and flour / mix and give
9. winners and spouses / have taken, bought, or asked
10. heat, humidity, lack / made and forced

### REVIEW

(subject / verb)

1. you / will go
2. watermelon and tomatoes / contain and are
3. trees / danced, threw, and sang
4. you (understood) / do forget
5. ball / was served, hit, and dropped
6. you / brushed, combed, and eaten
7. Marianne / laughed, crossed, and stuck
8. you (understood) / place
9. group / had
10. she / did love