

APSU Writing Center
Subjects and Predicates

Subjects and Predicates

Every complete sentence has two main parts: a subject and a predicate.

- **Subject:** Tells us who or what the sentence is about.
- **Predicate:** Tells us what the subject does or describes its condition.

Subject

- A subject usually includes a noun or pronoun and any modifiers.
- It answers the question "Who?" or "What?" before the verb.

1. Simple Subject

- The main noun or pronoun in the sentence, without any extra description.
 - **Example:** The tutor provided helpful feedback. (Who provided feedback? The tutor.)

2. Complete Subject

- The simple subject plus all its modifiers (descriptive words).
 - **Example:** The experienced writing tutor provided helpful feedback.

3. Compound Subject

- Two or more subjects joined by a conjunction (such as "and" or "or").
 - **Example:** Professors and tutors assist students with their writing.

Predicates

- Includes the verb and any words that describe the action or condition of the subject.
- It answers "What is the subject doing?" or "What is happening to the subject?"

1. Simple Predicate

- The main verb in the sentence.
 - **Example:** The tutor provided helpful feedback. (What did the tutor do? Provided.)

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2. Complete Predicate

- The verb plus all its modifiers and complements.
 - **Example:** The students carefully revised their papers before submission.

3. Compound Predicate

- Two or more verbs or verb phrases sharing the same subject.
 - **Example:** The tutor reviewed the essay and suggested revisions.

Identifying Subjects and Predicates

- Ask “Who or what is the sentence about?” → Subject
- Ask “What is happening in the sentence?” → Predicate
 - **Example:** The writing center (subject) offers free tutoring for students. (predicate)
 - **Example:** My professor and I (compound subject) discussed my thesis and revised my outline. (compound predicate)
 - **Example:** Attending a writing workshop (subject) can improve academic writing skills. (predicate)

Extra Practice

Identify the subject and predicate in these sentences:

1. The writing center provides resources for research and citation.
2. She revised her paper carefully and submitted it before the deadline.
3. Writing a clear introduction is essential for a well-structured paper.



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References

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Houston Independent School District. (n.d.). *Complete subjects and complete predicates*. Houston ISD. <https://www.houstonisd.org/cms/lib2/TX01001591/Centricity/Domain/26063/Study%20Guide%20for%20Subjects%20and%20Predicates.pdf>