

Subjects and Predicates

Sentences are built around subjects and predicates. In the following examples the subjects and predicates are italicized.

- The *complete subject* of a sentence includes all the words that tell who or what the sentence is about:
James is an excellent baseball player.
The powerful storm swept up the coast.
The snow will fall throughout the night.
- The *simple subject* is the most important word or words in the complete subject. The simple subject is usually a noun or pronoun:
James is an excellent baseball player.
The powerful storm swept up the coast.
The snow will fall throughout the night.
- Subjects may be compound. A *compound subject* has two or more simple subjects:
Roberto and Anna are twins.
- The *complete predicate* of a sentence includes all the words that tell what the subject is or does:
James is an excellent baseball player.
The powerful storm swept up the coast.
The snow will fall throughout the night.
- The *simple predicate* is the most important word or words in the complete predicate. It is a verb or a verb phrase:
James is an excellent baseball player.
The powerful storm swept up the coast.
The snow will fall throughout the night.
- A predicate may be compound, which means it has two or more simple predicates:
Jason swims and jogs for exercise.