

Complete and Simple Subjects and Predicates

- The **simple subject** is the main word or word group that tells **whom or what the sentence is about**.
- The **complete subject** consists of all the words that tell *whom* or *what* a sentence is about.
 - **SIMPLE SUBJECT** The study of small insects is a hobby of mine.
 - **COMPLETE SUBJECT** The study of small insects is a hobby of mine.
- The **simple predicate**, or **verb**, is the main word or word group that tells something about the subject.
- The **complete predicate** consists of a verb and all the words that modify the verb and complete its meaning.
 - **SIMPLE PREDICATE (VERB)** Many people will listen with interest to facts about bugs.
 - **COMPLETE PREDICATE** Many people will listen with interest to facts about bugs.
- Active vs. Linking vs. Helping Verbs
 - Action verbs tell what the subject does, even if the action cannot be seen
 - The Mexicans fought the French.
 - They wanted independence.
 - Linking verbs tell what the subject is.
 - Cinco de Mayo is very popular.
 - The holiday was also celebrated outside of that country.
 - Helping verbs help main verbs express action or tell time and are part of the verb phrase.
 - Technology has changed cities.
 - The changes will be more obvious in the future.
 - City dwellers should see a big impact on their lives.
- Subject-Verb Agreement
 - A verb must agree with its subject in number.
 - Marla works cooperatively with her classmates.
 - The players and coaches must work together to build their team.
 - Callers have asked for help.

EXERCISE A In the sentences below circle the simple subject, put a box around the simple predicate, underline the complete subject once and each complete predicate twice.

Example 1. [Are] (any of your (friends) [allergic] to the dust mite?)

1. The microscopic dust mite was discovered less than three decades ago.
2. This eight-legged pest is related to the tick and the spider.
3. Do you ever wash your pillow in very hot water?
4. Someone in your household should probably do so as soon as possible.
5. The daily diet of the dust mite consists of tiny skin flakes on your pillow and sheets.
6. The creatures leave tiny waste droppings in your bed.
7. These microscopic droppings mix with dust in your bedroom and in the house.
8. Unfortunately, this tainted dust may cause an allergic reaction in you or a family member.
9. Can a concerned person remove these pesky flesh-eaters from bedding?
10. Any person with laundry skills can wash bedding in the hottest wash cycle possible.

EXERCISE B Underline each simple subject once and each simple predicate (verb) twice.

Example 1. The tiny (bedbug) [has] often [found] its home in humans' beds.

11. The body of the bedbug is flat and wingless.
12. This bloodthirsty bug belongs to the insect class.
13. The blood of mammals such as humans forms the bedbug's diet.
14. A bedbug may grow to a length of a quarter of an inch.
15. The little insect usually sucks the blood of its host at night.