Unit 2: Parts of the Sentence

Lesson 13
Simple Subjects and Simple Predicates

Every sentence has a subject and a predicate. A simple subject is the main noun or pronoun that tells what the sentence is about. A simple predicate is the verb or verb phrase that tells something about the subject.

Clocks tick. (*Clocks* is the simple subject; *tick* is the simple predicate.)

► Exercise 1 Draw one line under each simple subject and two lines under each simple predicate.

*Andrea* read from the book *Of Mice and Men.*

1. Bells were ringing in joyous celebration of the king’s coronation.
2. According to poet John Keats, whales are “sea-shouldering” mammals.
3. Flowers were growing in every nook and cranny of the tiny backyard.
4. Paintings were displayed throughout the elaborate entryway.
5. The race at Cape White is on Saturday.
6. Those books are expensive.
7. I write poetry on rainy afternoons.
8. Julia has a rare coin from the seventeenth century.
9. We visited the museum of natural history in Cincinnati, Ohio.
10. The boxes of old clothes and toys are in a corner of the attic.
11. Our dog barks every morning at the mail carrier.
12. The exam was difficult.
13. I asked for a car for my birthday.
14. We stayed at the aquarium all day.
15. The sirens woke us in the dead of night.
16. The performance was impressive.
17. Time passed quickly.
18. Jake studies German.
20. The art of map production is called cartography.
21. Astronomy interests Derek and me.
22. Barb moved away a week or so ago.
23. Paul is the most responsible baby-sitter of all the teens on our block.
24. Luisa talks in her sleep.
25. I helped at my uncle’s repair shop last week.
26. That intersection is dangerous due to a deep curve right before it.
27. My brother studied biology at Northwestern University.
28. Mrs. McCann completed the problem on the chalkboard.
29. Physics is my favorite subject.
30. The answer became clear as soon as I quit thinking about it.
31. Joel felt proud of his dog’s blue ribbon.
32. The walk to town was more than a mile through soggy fields and low hills.
33. Amina’s archery team practices after school on Wednesdays and Thursdays.
34. The band will play in the gym.
35. Eduardo was absent for three days last week.
36. Her family includes three brothers and two sisters.
37. David put his shiny new baseball trophy on the top shelf.
38. Nicole will study in Paris this summer.
39. The spring concert is the biggest event for the choir.
40. Jill decided on a new stereo, speakers, and stand.
41. Ching-Li collects baseball cards of American ballplayers.
42. I worked on my term paper all day.
43. Pam borrowed my dictionary.
44. Mark laughed loudly at my lame joke.
45. Rashida works after school in the deli at Streber’s Market.
Lesson 14
Complete Subjects and Complete Predicates

A complete subject includes the simple subject and any words that modify it.
The driver of our bus waits patiently for the smallest children.

A complete predicate includes the simple predicate and any words that modify it.
The works of Monet are on display at the museum.

Exercise 1 Draw a vertical line between the complete subject and the complete predicate.
The Vikings were Scandinavian.

1. The seafaring Vikings traveled along the coasts of Europe during the period A.D. 800–1100.
2. This turbulent period is known as the Viking Age.
3. Vikings from Sweden, Norway, and Denmark raided many of Europe’s coastal villages.
4. Viking traders exchanged goods with merchants in Byzantium, Russia, and France.
5. Rich iron deposits in Scandinavia allowed Vikings to develop advanced tools.
6. Ornamental spears, swords, and axes were used by Viking warriors.
7. Viking ships were superior to the rowboats of the time.
8. The Vikings often buried their wealthy deceased in ships under water.
9. Some Viking poetry and literature still exist.
10. Viking sea warriors could be vicious in their attacks.
11. Many people in coastal villages were killed or taken prisoner.
12. Swedish Vikings settled in areas around the Gulf of Finland.
13. The Orkney and Shetland islands were home to Norwegian Vikings.
14. Vikings known as Rus, or Varangians, established the first Russian state during the ninth century.
15. Some Vikings founded settlements in Ireland and northwestern England.
16. These daring explorers also settled in Iceland, Greenland, and North America.
17. Descendants of the Vikings in the city of Normandy, France, were called Normans.
18. Viking conquests slowed in the tenth century.
19. The political systems and armies of Europe grew stronger in the eleventh century.
20. This brought an end to the Viking Age.
Exercise 2  Draw one line under the complete subject and two lines under the complete predicate.

The Vikings were probably the first Europeans in Nova Scotia.

1. Nova Scotia was one of their first stopovers in the Northern Hemisphere.
2. The province of Nova Scotia lies on the eastern coast of Canada.
3. The Nova Scotia peninsula and Cape Breton Island make up Nova Scotia.
4. It is almost completely surrounded by water.
5. The Gulf of St. Lawrence separates Nova Scotia from Newfoundland.
7. He left no settlers in Nova Scotia.
9. Nova Scotia was a battleground between the British and French during the seventeenth century.
10. An agreement called the Peace of Utrecht gave the mainland to the British.
11. The British gained control of Cape Breton Island in 1763.
12. The country joined the Dominion of Canada as one of its four primary provinces in 1867.
13. About eighty percent of Nova Scotia is covered by evergreen forests.
14. Nova Scotia and West Virginia are about the same size.
15. The city of Halifax is Nova Scotia's capital.
16. Fish, lumber, and ships were once important products of Nova Scotia.
17. Today coal, oil, and paper are the main products.
18. Nova Scotia's government is a parliamentary system.
19. It is headed by a lieutenant governor.
20. However, the provincial premier and an executive council make up the true executive branch.