

What Are Simple Subjects and Simple Predicates?

A sentence is a group of words that conveys a complete idea. For a sentence to be considered “complete,” it must contain two parts—the subject and the predicate.

Alexandria fell.
Go!
The quarterback threw the football.

Each of the examples above is a complete sentence. If the subject is an implied *you*, (as in the sentence *Go!*) it is not written within the sentence, but the “idea” is included in the sentence to express the complete thought. The **Subject** of the sentence is the main object or person the sentence is about. Subjects may be singular or plural. The **Predicate** explains what happens to the subject by expressing the *time* of the action—the *tense* of the action.

The *simple subject* is the noun or pronoun that represents the object or person in the sentence. The *simple predicate* is the verb that describes the subject’s action. On state exams, this topic may be confusing because some exams will ask for the “simple verb” and some will ask for the “simple predicate.” Don’t be fooled by the terminology—they are exactly the same. But, if an exam asks for the “complete subject” or the “complete predicate,” this is different since to make them “complete” you would include any modifiers or clauses with each section. For example:

Simple subject and predicate: The spotted, calico **cat had jumped** off the counter.

Complete subject and predicate: **The spotted, calico cat had jumped off the counter.**

Notice that the complete subject includes the modifiers *the*, *spotted*, and *calico*, and the predicate includes the prepositional phrase *off the counter*. On the other hand, the simple subject is just *cat* and the simple predicate is just the verb phrase *had jumped*.

Examples:

This **cleaner will remove** paint.

Queen Victoria ruled England for many years.

Many beautiful **waltzes were composed** by Johann Strauss.

After viewing the image to the right, how many simple subjects and simple predicates can you create?



Tomatina in Sutamarca, Columbia-Leonardo Munoz-Zumapress