

SUBJECT AND PREDICATE

Understanding subject and predicate is important for good sentence writing. The subject of the sentence is the focus of the sentence—what the sentence is about. It includes the noun or pronoun along with all the words that modify, or describe, it.

The predicate is the verb side of the sentence that tells something about the subject. Note the following examples of sentences split into subject and predicate:

Katelyn and Luca / ride their bikes to their neighbor's house every day.

Emaline / ate spaghetti for dinner.

The red dress with the stripes / was her favorite outfit.

Sometimes the subject is harder to find. Here is an example of a sentence that seems to have no subject.

Sit down in the chair.

The verb is *sit*. But who is doing the sitting? If the subject is not named, assume the subject is “you.”

PRACTICE EXERCISE 21.1

In each sentence, draw a line between the subject and predicate.

1. Jess plays basketball every afternoon.
2. Addi drove the ball home.
3. Evander wrote a poem.
4. Emma broke the chair's leg.
5. Taylor has a toothache.

PRACTICE EXERCISE 21.2

For each sentence, identify the subject or the predicate.

1. Kathryn and Lois ordered tacos with extra guacamole.
The *subject* is:
 - a. Kathryn and Lois
 - b. tacos
 - c. guacamole
2. Annika wiped off the table. The *predicate* is:
 - a. the table
 - b. wiped off the table
 - c. the table
3. Lola and her cousin bought tickets to the basketball game.
The *subject* is:
 - a. Lola
 - b. Lola and her cousin
 - c. bought tickets to the basketball game
4. Katia tagged Melissa in the picture. The *predicate* is:
 - a. Melissa in the picture
 - b. in the picture
 - c. tagged Melissa in the picture
5. Hand me that book, please. The *subject* is:
 - a. Hand
 - b. (You)
 - c. book