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The sentence in English grammar

Hello, my friends. today we are going to learn all about "**the sentence**" in **English grammar**.

Look at the following group of words:

1. Called is the ship camel of the desert the
2. night cold blew last wind a

These groups of words do not make any sense. Let us rewrite them as:

1. The camel is called the ship of the desert.
2. A cold wind blew last night.

Now, these sentences make complete sense.

"A sentence is a group of words that contains a subject and a verb. It makes complete sense by itself without depending on any other words or group of words to do so."

What is a Sentence?

A group of words that makes complete sense is called a **sentence**. It contains a subject and a predicate and is able to stand on its own.

Subject: The subject is the word or group of words that tell us to what or whom we are talking about.

Predicate: The predicate is the part of the sentence that makes a statement about the subject as to what the subject is doing or something concerning the subject.

1. Study the following sentences carefully:

| Subject | Predicates |
|------------|----------------------|
| My cat | Has whiskers |
| The Pencil | Is broken |
| The boys | Are playing football |

The above sentences express a complete thought, hence they are called complete sentences. In many sentences, the subjects may comprise just a single word, but more often the subject consists of two or more words.

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Simple Subject and Simple Predicate

Every subject in a particular sentence is a particular word around which the sentence is built. This particular word is called the simple subject. It is usually a noun or a pronoun.

Example: The boy fell down.

The main word in the sentence is the word boy; therefore boy is the simple subject.

The other words tell something about the subject and form the predicate. Among the words that make the complete predicate, the words that serve as the key to the predicate is called the simple predicate. It is generally a verb, the most important word in any sentence. In the above sentence, the word fell is the most important as it tells what is happening to the boy.

Compound Subject and Compound Predicate

Often we may see that a ([articles a, an, the, uses with example](#)) sentence includes two or more subjects and more than one simple predicate. These sentences are termed as Compound Sentences.

Example: A thief and a dacoit were caught yesterday.

In the above sentence, there are two subjects, thief and dacoit.

The connecting word is and. Therefore the above sentence has a compound subject.

Example: The maid washed and dried the clothes.

In the above sentence the subject is the 'maid' who has performed two tasks, washed and dried. The connecting word is and. Therefore the above sentence has a compound predicate.

Basic sentence pattern

A sentence must have three features:

A subject: about what or whom we are talking about

A verb: tells what the subject is or is doing, and

It must **stand alone** or can make sense on its own.

He called. - This is a sentence and it stands alone.

He - is the subject.

Called - is the verb.

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The following which are given not sentences, even though each has a subject and verb:

Because he called

When he called

He calling

These do not stand alone.

Of course, most sentences we speak or write in our daily life have more than just a subject and verb, but to be complete, a sentence must have at least *a subject* and *a verb* and *be able to stand alone*.

Sentences that are uncomplete are called *sentence fragments*, or *fragment sentences*, or just *fragments*.

Read the following examples carefully:

Subject + verb

- *We laughed.*
- *The lion roared.*

Subject + verb + direct object

- *Dickens wrote David Copperfield.*
- *She narrated the story.*

Subject + verb + subject complement

- *The judgment seemed fair.*
- *Our house was large and airy.*
- *He looked good.*

Subject + verb + direct object + object complement

- *He named his son Amit.*
- *Kavita called Neha a genius.*

Subject + verb + indirect object + direct object

- *Aslam gave Nargis the flowers.*
- *Review and Practice*

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Agreement of the Subject and the Verb

It must be remembered that a verb must agree with its subject. When the subject of a verb is a singular noun, the verb must be in the third person singular. The third-person singular is the form of the verb used with the personal pronouns **he**, **she**, and **it**.

When the subject of a verb is a plural noun, then we have to use a verb that must be in the third person plural. The third person plural (not singular) in the form of the verb used with the personal pronoun "**they**".

In the following examples, the verbs are in italics and their subjects are highlighted.

Singular Subject: The book *is* interesting.

Plural Subject: The books *are* interesting.

Singular Subject: A duck *was* flying overhead.

Plural Subject: Two ducks *were* flying overhead.

Singular Subject: One student *lives* here.

Plural Subject: Three students *live* here.

4 Kinds of Sentence with examples

There are 4 kinds of sentences:

1. Assertive or declarative sentence (a statement)
2. Interrogative sentence (a question)
3. Imperative sentence (a command)
4. Exclamatory sentence (an exclamation)

4 Kinds of Sentence with example

| Assertive sentence | Imperative sentence | Interrogative sentence | Exclamatory sentence |
|---|--|--|--|
| An Assertive Sentence is a sentence that states a fact. | An Imperative sentence is a sentence that gives a command | An Interrogative sentence asks a question. | Sentence that expresses sudden and strong feelings |
| Example: The train is late today. | Example: Vivek, go to your room, at once. (an order) | Example: Where is my pen? | Example: What a shame! |

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Assertive Sentence

Definition: An Assertive Sentence is a sentence that states a fact.

Such sentences are simple statements. They *state*, *assert*, or *declare* something.

Example: The train is late today.

Interrogative sentence

Definition: An Interrogative sentence asks a question. An interrogative sentence ends with a question mark (?)

Examples:

Where is my pen?

Where do you live?

Imperative sentence

Definition: An Imperative sentence is a sentence that gives a command, makes a request, or expresses a wish.

Examples:

1. Vivek, go to your room, at once. (an order)
2. Please use the next entrance. (a request)
3. We wish you a safe journey. (a wish)

Sometimes the subject (you) of an imperative sentence is unexpressed but understood.

Exclamatory sentence

Definition: Sentence that expresses sudden and strong feelings, *such as surprise, wonder, pity, sympathy, happiness*, or gratitude are Exclamatory sentences. An exclamatory sentence ends with an exclamation mark (!).

Example:

1. What a shame!
2. Boy, am I tired!