**Parts of a Sentence**

**What is a Sentence?**

**A sentence is a group of words that expresses a complete idea.**

**Ex: She feels sad.**

**: A complete Idea.**

I like to swim.

Mark will quit his job.

**The following are not complete sentences.**

She gave me the. (What did she give me?)

Will build the house. (Who will build the house?)

**A sentence can express a statement, a question, an order, a wish.**

**EX**: You are tall.

Are you tall?

Be tall.

I wish I were taller.

**Here is a list of the parts of a sentence:**

**a) Subject; b) Predicate; c) Direct object; d) Indirect object;**

**e) Object of the preposition; f) Transitive and intransitive verbs; g) complements**

**Subject:** The subject is the person or thing about which something is being stated.

**Ex:** Joe is a good boy.

Who is a good boy? "**Joe** is" : **Joe** is the **subject**.  
**Examples (the subject is bold):**

1. **Ronnie** finished his homework.
2. **She** was hit by a ball.
3. **Spain** is in Europe.
4. **Pigs and cows** can't fly.
5. **Traveling** is fun.
6. Stand up! (It is understood to be **you**)

* **How to identify the subject?**

To identify the **subject** of the sentence, first find the **verb**. Then ask, "Who or what (verb)?"

Who finished the homework?

What is in Europe?

* **The subject can be a single word:   
  She** is home.
* **Or, it can be a KEY word and some additional words around it.  
  The nice old lady from across the street** is home.

## Predicate: The predicate is the part of a sentence that tells something about the [subject](http://www.really-learn-english.com/parts-of-a-sentence.html#subject). The predicate always includes a [verb](http://www.really-learn-english.com/english-parts-of-speech.html#verb). ("Predicate" is also a verb that means, "to state something.") "Joe is a good boy." The predicateThe subject is Joe. Now, what about Joe? He is a good boy. "is a good boy" is a predicate.

**Examples:**

1. Ronnie **finished his homework**.
2. She **was hit by a ball**.
3. Spain **is in Europe**.
4. Pigs and cows **can't fly**.
5. Traveling **is fun**.
6. **Stand up**!

* **How can you identify the predicate?**

To identify the **predicate** of the sentence, look for the statement about the subject.  
For example, let's look at the sentence "John went home."   
  
**John** is the subject. What is said about John? That he went home!   
  
So "**went home**" is the predicate. And as always, it contains a verb (**went**).  
**Examples for the above sentences:**

1. What about Ronnie? He finished his homework.  **Predicate** = finished his homework
2. What about her? She was hit by the ball.  
   **Predicate** = was hit by the ball
3. What about Spain? It is in Europe.  
   **Predicate** = is in Europe
4. What about pigs and cows? They can't fly.  
   **Predicate** = can't fly.
5. What about traveling? It is fun.  
   **Predicate** = is fun
6. What about you? Stand up.  
   **Predicate** = stand up

**Simple Predicate:** The predicate can be a single word. **Or, it can be a KEY word and some additional words around it.**Jack **left**.

**Jack left the house.**

**Compound Predicate:** A compound predicate is a predicate that is made up of two or more simple predicates, connected by conjunctions such as and, but, or.  
**Example 1 (**the predicates are bold, the simple predicates are bold and underlined, and the compound predicate is bold and purple):

* Sarah **baked some cookies**.
* Sarah **made some coffee**.  
    
  *When we combine these two sentences we get:*
* Sarah **baked some cookies and made some coffee**.

"Baked some cookies and made some coffee" is a compound predicate.  
How do we know it's a compound predicate? Well, it's because we have **two** simple predicates: baked, made.  
**Example 2** (the predicates are bold, the simple predicates are bold and underlined, and the compound predicate is bold and purple):

* George **will choose the color**.
* George **will paint the wall**.  
    
  *When we combine these two sentences we get:*
* George **will choose the color and paint the wall**.

"Will choose the color and paint the wall" is a compound predicate.   
  
How do we know it's a compound predicate?  
  
Well, it's because we have **two** simple predicates: will choose, paint.  
  
**Direct Object:** A direct object is a person or thing that is affected by the action of the [verb](http://www.really-learn-english.com/english-parts-of-speech.html#verb). You could say that the direct object "receives the action of the verb."

"He broke **the window**."  
  
What was affected by the action? The window was.  
So "**the window**" is the direct object.

1. The ball hit her. What did the ball hit? So "her" is the direct object.

2. He is making a pancake. What is he making? "a pancake" is the direct object.

3. The boy loves his father. Whom does the boy love? "his father" is the direct object.

4. She gave a gift. What did she give? "a gift" is the direct object.

5. He got a gift. What did he get? "a gift" is the direct object.

**Indirect object:**

* An indirect object is a person or thing that the action is **done to** or **for**.  
  The indirect object usually comes just before the [direct object](http://www.really-learn-english.com/english-direct-object-indirect-object-and-object-of-the-preposition.html#direct_object).  
  You could also say that the indirect object is the receiver of the direct object.
* "He gave **his mother** flowers."  
  To whom did he give the flowers? To his mother.  
  So "**his mother**" is the indirect object.

He baked some cookies for his family. For whom did he bake some cookies? "For his family" is the indirect object.

Jack is telling them the news.

Ali is writing Mohammed a letter.

She wrote me a message.

I made you this kit.

Susan is writing herself a note.

**The Object of the Preposition:** The object of the preposition is a [noun](http://www.really-learn-english.com/english-parts-of-speech.html#noun) or a [pronoun](http://www.really-learn-english.com/english-parts-of-speech.html#pronoun) that completes its meaning.  
"The cat is looking at the **fish**."  
  


## She is thinking about. The sentence is incomplete.

She is thinking **about** your idea. "Idea" is the object of the preposition "about".

1. Be careful with. (the hot water)

2. Emma gave the book to. (Ronnie)

How can you tell if a word is an indirect object or the object of the preposition?

Ex: Emma gave Ronnie the book.

Emma gave the book to Ronnie.

* If it comes just after a preposition – then it's the object of the preposition.
* If it does not come just after a preposition – then it's an indirect object.
* Also, the indirect object is usually followed by the direct object. The object of the preposition does not.

## Transitive Verbs and Intransitive Verbs: Not every [verb](http://www.really-learn-english.com/english-parts-of-speech.html#verb) takes a [direct object](http://www.really-learn-english.com/parts-of-a-sentence.html#direct_object). The direct object completes the meaning of the verb, but not every verb needs completion. For example:

* I built last year. This sentence feels incomplete. Something is missing. What did I build?  
  To complete the idea I should add a direct object: "I built a house last year." Now the idea is complete.

An opposite example:

* I ran yesterday. This sentence is completely fine just like that, right? The idea is complete, and the verb doesn't require a direct object.

**Definition:**

* Verbs that **take direct objects** are called **transitive verbs**.  
  The meaning of a transitive verb is **incomplete** without a direct object.
* "She **is drinking** a glass of water."
* Verbs that **don't take direct objects** are called **intransitive verbs**.  
  The meaning of an intransitive verb is **complete** by its own.
* "She **is standing**."

**Complement:** A complement is a word or a group of words (usually an [adjective](http://www.really-learn-english.com/english-parts-of-speech.html#adjective) or a [noun](http://www.really-learn-english.com/english-parts-of-speech.html#noun)), that is used after linking verbs (such as *be* and *become*). The complement identifies or describes the [subject](http://www.really-learn-english.com/parts-of-a-sentence.html#subject) of the [verb](http://www.really-learn-english.com/english-parts-of-speech.html#verb).

* I am **a singer**. He is **Jack**. She became **angry**. Amy turned **red**.
* I am **Beth**. You are **a teacher**. He is **a good cook**. He became **a successful businessman**.
* Lisa seems **more tired than usual**. You don't look **so surprised**. Dinner smells **wonderful**!

**Worksheet: Parts of a sentence**

**Write the correct parts of a sentence for the underlined words:**

1. **Lisa** found her hat. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. My uncle James **won the race**. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Jane is cooking us **dinner. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

4. He **became very successful.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. The cat jumped on **the tree.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. Ali wrote **me** a note. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. I wrote him **a long letter**. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8. The teacher **helps them all the time.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9. We want to pay for your **work**. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

10. You seem **surprised.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

11. I was not responsible**. When I was sixteen.** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

12. **To celebrate their anniversary.** They are going to Asheville for the weekend. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

13. The elderly couple, **walking slowly up the driveway**, waved at their grandchildren. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

14. A gentle rain fell throughout the night. **Lulling us to sleep**. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

15. Ruby**,** **my sister’s best friend,** will loan me her car. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Answers:**

1. subject; 2. Predicate; 3.direct object; 4. Complement; 5. Object of the preposition; 6. Indirect object; 7. Direct object; 8. Predicate; 9. Object of the preposition; 10. Complement; 11. Dependent clause fragment; 12. 'to' fragment; 13. Added- detail fragment; 14. 'ing' fragment; 15. Added-detail fragment.