

8th – Subject and Predicate



When we speak or write we use words. We generally use these words in groups; as

- Little Jack sat in a corner. (make sense)
- Sat little jack corner in a (make no sense)

A group of words like this which makes a complete sense is called **Sentence**.

A sentence starts with a capital letter and ends with a full stop, a question mark or an exclamation mark.

Subject and Predicate

A Sentence consists of two parts: the subject and the predicate.

In a sentence, the subject may be the person or thing that does the action or the one on whom the action is performed.

For example:

The swimmer dived into the pool.

The spacecraft was launched.

In the first sentence, the subject is the swimmer who does the action; and in the second sentence, the action is performed on the subject, that is, the spacecraft. The rest of the sentence, excluding the subject, is known as the predicate.

The part which names the person or thing we are speaking about. This is called the **subject** of the sentence. The part which tells something about the subject. This is called the **predicate** of the sentence.

The subject of a sentence usually comes first, but occasionally it is put after the predicate; as, Here comes the bus.

Sweet are the uses of adversity.

Types of Sentences

1. Declarative or Assertive
2. Interrogative
3. Imperative
4. Exclamatory.

1. A sentence that makes a statement or assertion is called a Declarative or Assertive sentence. Example:

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.

There will be a grammar test tomorrow.

2. A sentence that asks a question is called an Interrogative sentence. Example:
Where do you live?

Is this a picture of you when you were a baby?

3. A sentence that expresses a command or a request is called an Imperative sentence. Example:

Be quiet.

Have mercy upon us.

Open your textbooks now.

4. A sentence which expresses strong feelings or emotions is called an exclamatory sentence. Example:

How cold the night is!

What a shame!

The subject of a sentence may be one or several words. The word that is most important in such a phrase is then called the subject-word.

Example: The weather was hot.



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The hot weather caused the death of many birds.

The weather, being sultry, spoilt our picnic plans.

In the second and third sentences above, the subject-words have been qualified by an adjective(hot) and the group of words that acts as an adjective(being sultry), respectively. **The** is also considered to be an attribute.

The adjective or the adjective phrase that qualifies the subject-word in a sentence is called the **attribute**.

Sometimes, the verb in a sentence may be qualified by an adverb or a group of words that works as an adverb. Example:

Ravi runs fast

We ran all the way.

An adverb or an adverb phrase that qualifies the verb is called the **adverbial qualification**.

The person or thing that receives the action of the verb is called the **object of the verb**. Example:

Sarita is reading a book.

I love peanut butter sandwiches.

Tara met her childhood friends after ages.

Intransitive verbs do not have objects, but sometimes they require a word or a group of words to complete their sense. Example:

Mira is a doctor.

Romit seems to be a studious boy.

The highlighted words in the above sentences are required to make the sentences complete and meaningful. They tell us something more about the subject of the verb.

A word or a group of words that is required to complete the sense of a verb, and that tells us something about the subject of the verb is called the **subjective complement**.

NOTE: The absence of the highlighted words, the sentences would sound incomplete. Example:

I appointed him captain.

They proved me wrong.

The words captain and wrong tell us something about the object of the verb, namely him, or me.

A word or a group of words that is required to complete the sense of the predicate and that tells us more about the object of the verb is called the **objective complement**.

Exercise

Q. In the following sentences separate the subject and the predicate.

1. The captain seems worried.

2. The general kept us standing.

3. The little children look energetic.

4. I bought a new dress from the market.



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5. The king, dressed in regal splendor, walked to the temple.

Q2. Change the sentences as directed.

1. Why worry about such small issues? (To assertive)

2. That was not the correct thing to say. (To interrogative)

3. As soon as he saw the policeman, he ran. (To negative)

4. Was it for this that we worked so hard? (To assertive)

5. You are instructed to sit down immediately. (To imperative)

6. I shall never forget those glorious days in school. (To interrogative)

7. You must solve all the sums in this exercise before turning on the television. (To negative)

8. You must not run or shout in the corridor. (To imperative)

9. Who thought it would rain so heavily today? (To assertive)

10. The minister whispered in the emperor's ear. (To interrogative)

Q3. Write a paragraph on "Unity".



