



Basic Sentence Structure

All sentences contain a subject (usually a noun or a pronoun) and a predicate (verb). Neither a subject nor a predicate can stand alone. The following chart will help you to understand the different types of subjects and predicates.

Subject	<i>A subject is the part of the sentence that does something and who or what the sentence is about.</i>
Simple Subject	<i>Maria</i> baked chocolate chip cookies. My <i>friend</i> is a wonderful cook. My <i>mother</i> likes to cook spaghetti.
Complete Subject	<i>A complete subject is the noun or pronoun and all the words which describe it.</i> My best friend baked chocolate chip cookies. (<i>My best friend</i> is the complete subject.)
Compound Subject	<i>A compound subject is made up of two or more simple subjects.</i> Sarah, Jesse, and Sam like to decorate wedding cakes. (<i>Sarah, Jesse, and Sam</i> are all parts of the subject.)
Predicate	<i>A predicate (the verb) is the part of the sentence which tells something about the subject.</i>
Simple Predicate	Maria <i>baked</i> the cake for my dad' s birthday. (<i>baked</i> tells what the subject, Maria, did)
Complete Predicate	<i>The complete predicate is the simple predicate with all the words which describe it.</i> Maria <i>baked the cake yesterday afternoon.</i> (The complete predicate is <i>baked the cake yesterday.</i>)
Compound Predicate	<i>A compound predicate is made up of two or more simple predicates.</i> Maria <i>frosted and decorated</i> the cake. (The compound predicate is <i>frosted and decorated</i>)