

Unit 8-Subjects, Predicates, and Sentences

8.1

Kinds of Sentences

A sentence is a group of words that expresses a complete thought.

A declarative sentence makes a statement. It ends with a period.

Ex. Ecologists study relationships in nature.

An interrogative sentence asks a question. It ends with a question mark.

Ex. Do animals and plants depend on each other?

An exclamatory sentence expresses strong feeling. It ends with an exclamation point.

Ex. What important work ecologists do!

An imperative sentence gives a command or makes a request. It ends with a period.

Ex. Look at these animals.

8.2

Sentences and Sentence Fragments

The subject part of a sentence names whom or what the sentence is about.

The predicate part of the sentence tells what the subject does or has. It can also describe what the subject is or is like.

Ex. [Many forests][are endangered.]

Subject Predicate

A sentence fragment is a group of words that does not express a complete thought. It may also be missing a subject, a predicate, or both.

Correcting Sentence Fragments.

Fragment	Problem	Sentence
Lush forests	The fragment lacks a predicate. What do lush forests do?	Lush forests provide scenic land for recreation.
Inhabits the woodlands.	The fragment lacks a subject. Who Or what inhabits the woodlands?	Wildlife inhabits the woodlands.
For animals	The fragment lacks both a subject and a predicate.	Forests provide shelter for animals.

8.3

Subjects and Predicates

The complete subject includes all of the words in the subject of a sentence.

The complete predicate includes all of the words in the predicate of a sentence.

Ex. Complete Subject	Complete Predicate
[The capable foresters]	[study forests closely.]
[Foresters]	[are guardians of the environment.]

The simple subject is the main word or group of words in the complete subject. The simple subject is usually a noun or pronoun.

The simple predicate is the main word or group of words in the complete predicate. The simple predicate is always a verb.

Ex. Complete Subject	Complete Predicate
[All people]	[change their environment.]
Simple Subject	Simple Predicate