

Lesson 3

Subjects and Predicates

Every sentence has a subject and a predicate, which together express a complete thought. The **subject** of a sentence tells whom or what the sentence is about. The **predicate** of the sentence tells what the subject does or has. It can also tell what the subject is or is like.

SUBJECT	PREDICATE
Sunlight	shone through the cracks in the old shed.

The **simple subject**, usually a noun or a pronoun, is the main word or group of words in the complete subject. The **complete subject** is the simple subject with all of its modifiers. The **simple predicate**, which is always a verb, is the main word or group of words in the complete predicate. The **complete predicate** is the simple predicate with all of its modifiers.

	SUBJECT	PREDICATE
SIMPLE	The noise of the thunder	scared the children.
COMPLETE	The noise of the thunder	scared the children.

► **Exercise 1** Draw a line between the complete subject and the complete predicate. Underline each simple subject once and each simple predicate twice.

Ireland is known as the Emerald Isle.

1. The rolling, green landscape glows against its blue backdrop.
2. Mild temperatures keep the lush vegetation deep green.
3. Regular rainfall keeps the soil dark and moist.
4. Trees once added greatly to the greenness.
5. Little woodland remains in Ireland today, however.
6. Farmlands cover most of central Ireland.
7. Many mountain ranges rise near the coasts.
8. Ireland's highest peak is in the Mountains of Kerry.
9. Kerry is one of Ireland's twenty-six counties.
10. Kerry is a beautiful area of lakes and mountains.
11. Ireland's beautiful landscape inspired her many writers and artists.

12. Dramatists from the Emerald Isle include Padraic Colum, Sean O'Casey, and John Synge.
13. These playwrights' works appear at the Abbey Theater in Dublin.
14. William Butler Yeats started this theater.
15. Yeats was a memorable Irish poet and dramatist.
16. He lived during the time known as the Irish Literary Revival.
17. Other writers of this age were James Joyce, George Augustus Moore, and George Russell.
18. Joyce is the most famous of the three.
19. He often wrote about Dublin and about the Irish people.
20. The influence of Irish writers extended beyond their native country.
21. George Bernard Shaw was popular in English and American theaters.
22. Shaw's works include *Arms and the Man*, *Man and Superman*, and *Pygmalion*.
23. Oscar Wilde also found fame in England and the United States.
24. Wilde is the author of *A Woman of No Importance* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* as well as the novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.
25. Several Irish painters perfected their craft with the help of the Royal Hibernian Academy.
26. Two Irish artists are Maurice MacGonigal and Estella Solomon.
27. Artists from Ireland produced great treasures over the years.
28. Each captured the beauty of the Emerald Isle.

Lesson 5**Sentence Fragments**

A sentence must have a subject and a predicate and must express a complete thought. A group of words that does not have both a subject and a predicate is an incomplete sentence, or *sentence fragment*.

The truck, an old red one. (lacks a predicate)

Slowly climbed the steep hill. (lacks a subject)

On the country road outside of town. (lacks a subject and a predicate)

► **Exercise 1** Write *sent.* in the blank if the group of words is a sentence and write *frag.* if it is a fragment.

- frag. Learned about bees.
- _____ 1. Geneticist Warwick Kerr studied honeybees.
- _____ 2. At the University of São Paulo in Brazil.
- _____ 3. In 1956 he imported some African queen bees.
- _____ 4. These bees had a savage reputation.
- _____ 5. Attacked animals and people without warning.
- _____ 6. However, African bees sting only to defend their nest.
- _____ 7. Most stinging incidents occur during the swarming season.
- _____ 8. The hot summer months.
- _____ 9. Stinging incidents by large numbers of bees are uncommon.
- _____ 10. Dr. Kerr carefully kept the bees in enclosures.
- _____ 11. Not another beekeeper.
- _____ 12. Allowed twenty-six queens and their swarms to escape.
- _____ 13. The African bees readily nested in the wilds of Brazil.
- _____ 14. Reproducing quickly and swarming frequently.
- _____ 15. The African honeybees began to spread.
- _____ 16. In all directions.

► **Exercise 2** Write *S* in the blank if the fragment lacks a subject and *P* if it lacks a predicate. If the sentence is complete, write *sent*.

 P Honey bees, digger wasps, and red ants.

- _____ 1. Live together in colonies.
- _____ 2. Did you know that a colony may contain thousands of insects?
- _____ 3. One queen.
- _____ 4. Produce all the eggs.
- _____ 5. A special room or cell for the queen.
- _____ 6. Bees, wasps, and ants undergo a complete metamorphosis.
- _____ 7. The four stages of these insects.
- _____ 8. The egg, the larva, the pupa, and the adult.
- _____ 9. The female workers.
- _____ 10. Workers have many jobs.
- _____ 11. Collect food and take care of the nest, the queen, and her offspring.
- _____ 12. Some workers protect the nest from enemies.
- _____ 13. Search for food to bring back to the colony.
- _____ 14. Insects' various ways of communication.

► **Writing Link** Write four complete sentences containing both a subject and a predicate.

Grammar