

Simple and Complete Subjects and Predicates

Every sentence has a subject and a predicate. The words that tell whom or what the sentence is about are the **complete subject**. The most important word in the complete subject is the **simple subject**. It is usually a noun or a pronoun. Some simple subjects have more than one word, such as *United States*.

A gentle lullaby relaxes everyone. → The simple subject is *lullaby*.

The words that tell what the subject is or does are the **complete predicate**. The most important word in the complete predicate is the **simple predicate**, or the verb. Some simple predicates have more than one word, such as *is walking*.

My aunt plays lullabies on the piano. → The simple predicate is *plays*.

A **predicate nominative** is a pronoun or noun that follows a linking verb and describes the subject. Some linking verbs are *is, am, looks, and becomes*.

My uncle is a musician. → The predicate nominative is *musician*.

A **fragment** is a group of words that lacks either a subject or a predicate.

The power of music. → This fragment lacks a predicate.

A **run-on** is two or more complete sentences run together.

Our whole family loves music we attend many concerts.

Directions Draw a line between the complete subject and the complete predicate in each sentence. Underline the simple subject once. Underline the simple predicate twice. Circle the predicate nominative.

1. Many babies respond well to music.
2. Little babies can learn a lot.
3. I practice piano every afternoon.
4. My baby sister becomes very still.
5. She is a good listener.
6. All people can enjoy good music.
7. Beautiful music will calm angry feelings.

Directions Write *F* after fragments. Write *R* after run-ons. Write *S* after complete sentences.

8. Our dog can sing she howls along with the piano. _____
9. Animals must find our music odd. _____
10. Most of our many pets. _____
11. They like it they put up with it. _____
12. The whole family will attend a concert tonight. _____