

ENGLISH

Grammar: Parts of A Sentence



Subject and Predicate

What is a Subject and a Predicate?

- A complete sentence is a combination of two parts—a **subject** and a **predicate**.

Subject	Predicate
Tom	was infamous for his bad temper.
The old man	lived all by himself in the big house.
The enemy	did not succeed in infiltrating our borders.

SUBJECT

- A subject is the person or thing on which the sentence is based.

In the first sentence, '**Tom**' is the person about whom something is being said; therefore, it is the subject. The same logic applies to '**The old man**' and '**The enemy**' which are the subjects of the respective sentences which follow.

- A subject consists of a noun; however, pronouns such as 'I', 'we' and 'they' can also be the subjects of sentences.

Examples:

I do not have time to tend to this garden.

We have been working on this project for a very long time.

They did not expect the girl to be so confident.

'I', '**We**' and '**They**' are the subjects of the sentences stated above as the sentences are based on them.

PREDICATE

A predicate (or the second part of a sentence) is the part which tells us more about the subject. It is the part which adds meaning to the subject.

In the first sentence, '**was infamous for his bad temper**' tells us more about '**Tom**' (or the subject); therefore, it is the predicate.

Examples:

I **do not have any plans for this weekend**.

We **have been working on this project for a very long time**.

They **did not expect the girl to be so confident.**

Let us look at some more examples of subjects and predicates within sentences.

Examples:

1. The doctor treated his patients with care and concern.

Subject: The doctor

Predicate: treated his patients with care and concern

2. Neither Sam nor Mike was invited to the party.

Subject: Neither Sam nor Mike

Predicate: was invited to the party

3. We cannot cast a vote in the name of the absent party.

Subject: We

Predicate: cannot cast a vote in the name of the absent party

4. Ramesh will be giving the vote of thanks to the chief guest.

Subject: Ramesh

Predicate: will be giving the vote of thanks to the chief guest

5. Whom were you speaking to on your cell phone?

Subject: Whom

Predicate: were you speaking to on your cell phone?