

Complete and Simple Subjects and Predicates A

- 10c.** The **simple subject** is the main word or word group that tells *whom* or *what* the sentence is about.

The simple subject is part of the **complete subject**, which consists of all the words that tell *whom* or *what* the sentence is about.

- 10e.** The **simple predicate**, or **verb**, is the main word or word group that tells something about the subject.

The simple predicate is part of the **complete predicate**, which consists of a verb and all the words that describe the verb and complete its meaning.

EXERCISE A In each of the following sentences, underline the complete subject and circle the simple subject.

Example 1. Examples of amphibians include salamanders, frogs, and toads.

- Many types of amphibians can be found in the United States.
- Several kinds of salamanders inhabit forest areas.
- The largest salamander on land is the Pacific giant salamander.
- The Pacific giant salamander can grow to nearly one foot in length.
- A small mouse might be a meal to this salamander.
- The main predator in a small stream might be this large salamander.
- A smaller salamander is the Olympic salamander.
- Logs provide shady spots for the Olympic salamander.
- To these salamanders, moisture from the forest floor is extremely important.
- These smaller salamanders live on land but need to be near moisture.

EXERCISE B In each of the following sentences, underline the complete predicate and circle the simple predicate.

Example 1. Ancient forests are extremely valuable to many life-forms.

- Many mammals, amphibians, and reptiles live in ancient forests.
- Animals can make nests in dead trees.
- Logs in streams and along the forest floor become part of an ancient forest.
- These logs are beneficial for the soil and for animals.
- All of the elements of an ancient forest work together.

Subjects and Predicates

10b. A *subject* tells *whom* or *what* the sentence is about.

To find the subject, ask *who* or *what* is doing something or *about whom* or *what* something is being said.

10d. The *predicate* of a sentence tells something about the subject.

In the following examples, the subjects are underlined once and the predicates are underlined twice.

EXAMPLES The construction of the White House began in 1792.

Not until 1800 did the presidential residence have its first occupants.

EXERCISE A Identify the underlined part or parts of each of the following sentences as the subject or the predicate. On the line provided, write *S* for *subject* or *P* for *predicate*.

Example P 1. Has the White House been the home of every United States president
except George Washington?

- _____ 1. The White House was originally called the President's House.
- _____ 2. Later, it was called the Executive Mansion.
- _____ 3. The building's design was chosen after a contest in 1791.
- _____ 4. The Irish American architect James Hoban won five hundred dollars for his design.
- _____ 5. The original structure was built of white-gray sandstone.
- _____ 6. British forces attacked the capital in 1814 and burned the President's House.
- _____ 7. After the fire, painters whitewashed the new mansion.
- _____ 8. Covering smoke stains were several coats of white paint.
- _____ 9. People commonly called the building the White House.
- _____ 10. During his presidency, Theodore Roosevelt authorized the popular name.

EXERCISE B Identify the underlined part or parts of each of the following sentences as the subject or the predicate. On the line provided, write *S* for *subject* or *P* for *predicate*.

Example P 1. One symbol of United States independence is the Liberty Bell.

- _____ 11. A picture of the Liberty Bell appears in our social studies textbook.
- _____ 12. Does the Liberty Bell really weigh over two thousand pounds?
- _____ 13. The nation's flag also symbolizes independence.
- _____ 14. The flag's thirteen stripes stand for the nation's original thirteen colonies.
- _____ 15. Can any of you explain the symbolic meaning of the flag's fifty stars?