

Parts of a Sentence

2a. A **sentence** is a word group that contains a subject and a verb and that expresses a complete thought.

2b. Sentences consist of two basic parts: subjects and predicates.

Sentences may contain **complements**, such as **subject complements: predicate nominatives** and **predicate adjectives**; or **objects of verbs: direct objects and indirect objects**.

EXERCISE Decide whether the underlined words in the following sentences are predicate nominatives, predicate adjectives, direct objects, or indirect objects. Above each underlined word, write *PN* for predicate nominative, *PA* for predicate adjective, *DO* for direct object, or *IO* for indirect object.

Example 1. After he gave ^{*IO*} her a rowing ^{*DO*} lesson, he felt ^{*PA*} tired.

1. Ruth became the new treasurer for the bicycle club.
2. Felix wrote Martha a long letter while she was away.
3. The students seemed tired after the long lecture.
4. We finished our geometry homework before dinner.
5. The principal offered the seniors some good advice about choosing a college.
6. Has the coach given the players their gloves?
7. The salad tasted better after you added the horseradish.
8. The winner of this year's poetry competition was Carlita.
9. The sophomores chose a new team name.
10. What a great leader he became!
11. The magician appeared nervous during the beginning of her performance.
12. Will Jacqueline be our new tutor?
13. Hear this beautiful poem by Emily Dickinson.
14. Are the counselors going to send us a list of recommended books?
15. We went to the shopping mall and bought some candles and a vase.
16. Ron gave me some paint, a few brushes, and a large pad to practice with.
17. The soup that my grandmother made smells spicy.
18. When will Trevor become a performer?
19. The snow felt cold, but we continued to play outside.
20. Are those black birds with yellow spots starlings?

Review C: Sentence Parts

EXERCISE A In each of the following sentences, underline the simple subject once and the verb twice. If the subject is understood, write it in parentheses before the sentence. Be sure to include all parts of a verb phrase and all parts of a compound subject or verb.

Example (*you*) 1. Come with me to buy Mother's birthday present, please.

- How far in advance do you usually shop for birthday presents?
- In my opinion, birthdays are very important occasions.
- Gifts for others should reflect their tastes, not yours.
- One must consider the recipients' interests carefully.
- Not many of my relatives share my sister's interests or like her taste.
- Her choice of gift for a grandparent or an aunt or an uncle is often inappropriate.
- Neither subtle hints nor candid suggestions penetrate her consciousness.
- Fortunately, all of us recognize the thought behind the present.
- Tell me your opinions about birthday gifts.
- Would you consider a job as a personal shopper?

EXERCISE B Each of the following sentences contains at least one complement. Underline each complement, and above the complement, indicate the type of complement it is by writing *PA* for *predicate adjective*, *PN* for *predicate nominative*, *DO* for *direct object*, or *IO* for *indirect object*.

Example 1. Did you send ^{*IO*} Flora a ^{*DO*} thank-you note?

- The reading assignment was an informative article about medical ethics.
- The haiku is a major form of Japanese verse.
- The last mile of a ten-mile hike always seems longest.
- Do you give your pets enough water during the summer?
- The jurors carefully considered the allegations of the defense counsel.
- The audience at the awards dinner grew restless during the long speeches and fidgeted uncomfortably.
- To the playwright's surprise, his work became the talk of the town.
- I gave my brother a book for his birthday last year.
- The group improvised and sang the song without accompaniment.
- They sent us a detailed list of suggestions for the camping trip.