



Sentence Base

A **sentence** is a group of words that expresses a complete thought.

A **sentence** must have a **subject** and a **predicate**.

The **subject** names the person, place, thing, or idea that the sentence is about.

The **predicate** informs the reader about the subject and contains the verb.

Subject **Predicate**
Ex: *My father lives in Colorado.*

Sometimes, a subordinating conjunction will prevent a clause that contains both a subject and a predicate from actually standing alone as a sentence.

Subject **Predicate**
Ex: *Since my father lives in Colorado..*

This is not a complete sentence because the subject "my father" and the predicate "lives in Colorado" are, in grammatical terms, functioning as a *noun phrase* together, which means "Since my father lives in Colorado" does not contain an active predicate.

Sometimes a sentence will need a **complement** to sound complete. The four types of complements are **direct objects**, **indirect objects**, **predicate nominatives**, and **predicate adjectives**.

The **direct object** is a noun or a pronoun that is the target of the verb. To locate a direct object, ask the question "What?" or "Whom?" after encountering the verb.

Ex: *The cat drank **the water**.*
(The cat drank *what*?)

The **indirect object** answers "To whom?," "For whom?," "To what?," or "For what?" about the verb.

Ex: *Fred bought **his girlfriend** a diamond ring / Fred bought a diamond ring for **his girlfriend**.*
(Fred bought a diamond ring *for whom*?)

The **predicate nominative** is a noun or a pronoun that follows a linking verb (which is typically a form of "be") and identifies, renames, or explains the subject.

Ex: *Jesus is **Lord**.*
*Karen is **a dentist**.*

The **predicate adjective** is an adjective that identifies, renames, or explains the subject.

Ex: *This movie is **boring**.*