

SENTENCE STRUCTURE

PARTS OF THE SENTENCE

Sentence Structure

Parts of the Sentence

The principal
parts

The secondary
parts

The independent
elements

The Subject

The Object

Interjections

The Predicate

The Attribute

Parenthesis

The Adverbial
Modifier

Parts of the Sentence

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graph TD; A[Parts of the Sentence] --> B[The principal parts]; A --> C[The Subject]; A --> D[The Predicate];
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The principal parts

The Subject

The Predicate

The Subject

- is the principal part of the sentence.
- is grammatically not dependent on the other parts of the sentence.
- can denote a living being, a lifeless thing, an idea, or a phenomenon.
- may be expressed by a single word or a group of words:
 - 1) a (pro)noun, a substantivized adjective or participle II

She (Jennie) is very beautiful.

The wounded were taken good care of.

- 2) a numeral (cardinal or ordinal), an infinitive, an infinitive phrase or construction, an ing-form

The first is his number in races.

To know everything is to know nothing.

Seeing is believing.

The principal parts

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graph TD; A[The principal parts] --> B[The Subject]; B --> C[Notional]; B --> D[Formal];
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The Subject

Notional

Formal

It as the subject of the sentence

- **A notional subject**

represents a living being or a thing

- 1) *The personal 'It'*
- 2) *The demonstrative 'It'*

- **A formal subject**

performs purely a grammatical function

- 1) *The impersonal 'It'*
- 2) *The introductory (anticipatory) 'It'*
- 3) *The emphatic 'It'*

It as a notional subject of the sentence

1) *The personal 'It'*

- stands for a definite thing or some abstract idea previously mentioned

This is a famous picture. It was painted by John Constable.

2) *The demonstrative 'It'*

- points out some person or a thing expressed by a predicative noun

It is John.

- refers to the thought contained in a previous statement

It as a formal subject of the sentence

The impersonal 'It' is used to denote:

- ✓ **a natural phenomenon** (to talk about the weather):

It's rainy today.

- ✓ **time & distance:**

It's a long way from here.

- ✓ **a description of a place:**

It was calm and beautiful up in the mountains.

- ✓ **to introduce an action:**

It's going to take five hours to get there.

- ✓ **to comment on a fact:**

It was surprising that a few people came to the show.

It as a formal subject of the sentence

The introductory (anticipatory) 'It' introduces the real subject.

- It is no use lying to me. I know the truth.
- It's impossible to find him.

PRACTICE

Transform the following sentences:

- 1) His brother brought me that letter an hour ago.
- 2) Tom saw Jane in the park yesterday.
- 3) We couldn't get in touch with them until we found their new address.

It as a formal subject of the sentence

The emphatic 'It' is used for emphasis when we want to intensify the idea expressed by any part of the sentence.

1) I met his sister in he park.

→It was ***I*** who/that met his sister in he park.

→It was ***his sister*** whom/that I met in he park.

→It was ***in the park*** that I met his sister.

2) I told him the news after he had returned from London.

It was ***after he had returned from London*** that I told him the news.

3) She didn't learn the truth until she returned home.

It was not ***until she returned home*** that she learned the truth.

4) We didn't receive a letter from them until May.

It was not ***until May*** that we received a letter from them.

PRACTICE

Translate the following sentences into Russian:

- 1) Именно он хотел, чтобы она стала актрисой.
- 2) Именно ей они были обязаны за все.
- 3) Только после того, как Джейн вернулась из Бристоля, она обнаружила пропажу.
- 4) Только спустя 10 лет мы наконец-то встретились с ними снова.
- 5) Домой они вернулись только в июне.
- 6) Мы повстречались именно в Мадриде.
- 7) Да пойми же ты, в той машине я видел именно Тома; я не могу ошибаться.

The formal subject *There*

- to say that something exists;
- to mention the presence of smth.;
- to say that smth. has happened or will happen;
- with modal verbs to express possibility or probability;
- with the verbs '*to seem*', '*to appear*';
- to explain a problem.

! In the construction 'There + be' the predicate usu. agrees in number with the word that immediately follows it

Other types of formal subjects

- ‘One’ as the subject is used when we think about the doer of the action in general, any person or people (including the speaker)
 - **One** should be careful when crossing the street.
 - **One** must always keep his word.
- ‘They’ as the subject is used when we think about people in general (not including the speaker); usu. followed by the verb ‘to say’
 - **They** say wonders sometimes happen.

PRACTICE

Translate the following sentences into Russian:

- 1) В нашей квартире много мебели.
- 2) Именно он заставил меня поверить в себя.
- 3) В гостях хорошо, а дома лучше.
- 4) Пора идти спать! Завтра нам предстоит сдавать самый сложный экзамен.
- 5) Сейчас почти 17.00. через 2 часа мы будем в Риме.
- 6) Нет розы без шипов.
- 7) Говорят, что наши возможности безграничны.
- 8) Только после того, как мама легла спать, мы смогли наконец-то начать подготовку к ее дню рождения.
- 9) Никогда не знаешь, что он сотворит в этот раз.
- 10) Знакомьтесь, это Майкл, он работает инженером в нашей компании.
- 11) Это недалеко отсюда. Странно, что за все время, что вы здесь бродите, вы не обнаружили этот дом.
- 12) Мы не могли связаться с ними, пока не узнали их новый адрес.
- 13) Похоже, что мы так никогда так и не узнаем правду.

The Predicate

- informs us of what is happening to the Subject.
- may express an action, state, quality of the person, thing or phenomenon.
- is grammatically dependent on the Subject – agrees with it in person & number.
- contains a finite verb which may express *tense, mood, voice, aspect, etc.*

The principal parts

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graph TD; A[The principal parts] --> B[The Predicate]; A --> C[The compound predicate]; B --> D[The simple predicate]; B --> E[The compound predicate]; D --> F[Verbal (SVP)]; D --> G[Nominal* (SNP)]; E --> H[Verbal (CVP)]; E --> I[Nominal (CNP)];
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**The
Predicate**

The simple
predicate

The
compound
predicate

Verbal
(SVP)

Nominal*
(SNP)

Verbal
(CVP)

Nominal
(CNP)

The Simple Verbal Predicate

- consists of only a notional verb (in any tense, aspect, voice or mood form)

I ***have been waiting*** for you for half an hour.

Did she ***tell*** him the truth?

- can also be expressed by phraseological units and set phrases treated as verb equivalents:

have a look

hold a glance

have a walk

make a remark

take a walk

pay a visit

give a smile, etc.

She ***has given*** him ***a smile***.

have breakfast/lunch/dinner

take care of

make up one's mind

pay attention to

take part in

have a bath/shower

make sense, etc.

The ***are having lunch*** now.

The Simple Nominal* Predicate

is expressed by a noun, or an adjective, or a verbal.

It doesn't contain a link-verb, as it shows the incompatibility of the idea expressed by the subject and that expressed by the predicate.

- Me ***a liar!***
- She ***spying!***

The Compound Nominal Predicate

- consists of **a link-verb** & **a predicative**

be

become

get

grow

look

turn

(=a nominal part) that may be expressed by *a noun, an adjective, a numeral, a pronoun, an infinitive, an ing-form*

The leaves ***are turning yellow***.

You ***look pale***.

He ***became a painter***.

The Compound Verbal Predicate

consists of a finite form & a verbal or an adjective.

As the first component we can find:

modal verbs & phrases

**verbs of 1) seeming & appearing
2) unexpected occurrence**

some verbs of position & motion

phasal verbs

The Compound Verbal Predicate

- **modal verbs & phrases** (*can, may, must, have to, be to, shall, should, will, would, ought to, need, dare, be going to, be (cap)able, be willing, be anxious, be bound, be obliged, etc.*):

You ***should have done*** it.

Mary ***is going to have a baby***.

- **verbs of**

- 1) **seeming and appearing** (*seem, appear*):

Jack ***seemed to have heard*** the news.

For a moment she ***appeared to be hesitating***.

- 2) **unexpected occurrence** (*happen, turn out, chance, prove*):

They ***happened to meet*** in the park.

- **some verbs of position & motion:**

John ***sat reading*** a book.

Jill ***is out shopping***.

- **phasal verbs of beginning, repetition, duration & cessation:**

Fiona ***started attending*** lectures on Monday.

He ***gave up smoking***.

When a child, she ***used to ride*** a bicycle every day in the nearest park.

PRACTICE

Find the predicate and characterize it:

- 1) The meeting will begin at 7p.m.
- 2) She began crying.
- 3) John didn't pay attention to the people around him.
- 4) It suddenly grew dark.
- 5) On hearing these words her face turned pale.
- 6) She can't be sleeping now.
- 7) Mr. Atkinson is dining at the moment.
- 8) He never takes part in talk-shows.
- 9) I am to speak last at the meeting.
- 10) When a child, I used to ride my bicycle all days long.
- 11) You're not allowed to come in.
- 12) I've just told you that.
- 13) She was the first to start speaking.
- 14) I'm willing to have a talk with him!
- 15) I'm not going to wake him up, he's just fallen asleep.

Subject-Predicate Agreement

The Subject	The Predicate	
	in the singular	in the plural
1) homogeneous subjects (and/-)	After infinitives <i>To labour in peace, and devote her labour and life to her poor son, was all the widow sought.</i>	After nouns <i>Jean and Tom are moving back from the USA.</i>
2) t/here	Depends on the nouns following the predicate	
	<i>There/here is a table, five chairs and a sofa in the room.</i>	<i>There/here are five chairs, a table and a sofa in the room.</i>

Subject-Predicate Agreement

The Subject	The Predicate	
	in the singular	in the plural
3) homogeneous subjects connected by: <i>not only...but (also), or/nor, n/either...n/or</i>	If the last item is singular <i>Either the station or the cinema is a good place to meet.</i>	If the last item is plural <i>Neither your sister nor you are to blame.</i> <i>Either the station or the cinema are a good place to meet.</i>
4) two subjects in the singular connected by <i>as well as</i>	Agrees with the subject that stands first	
	<i>The Volga as well as its affluents is very picturesque</i>	<i>The Volga's affluents as well as the Volga itself are very picturesque.</i>

Subject-Predicate Agreement

The Subject	The Predicate	
	in the singular	in the plural
5) a noun modified by 2 or more attributes connected by <i>and</i>	When one person, thing, idea is meant <i>The complete and beautiful quiet was almost the quiet from beyond the grave.</i>	If two or more persons, things, or ideas are meant <i>Classic and light music have both their admirers.</i>
6) emphatic <i>it</i>	<i>It was the Simpsons who bought that house.</i>	_____
7) words beginning with <i>every-, any-, some-, no-; each, every</i> + a single noun	<i>Nobody was at home. Everybody was glad to see him back. Every room has its own bathroom.</i>	<i>The boys have each drawn a picture.</i>

Subject-Predicate Agreement

The Subject	The Predicate	
	in the singular	in the plural
8) an interrogative pronoun (<i>Who? What? Which?</i>)	<i>Who's that woman over there?</i>	If the question refers to more than one person <i>Who are they?</i>
9) a relative pronoun (<i>who, which, that</i>)	Agrees with the preceding word	
	<i>A postman is a man who/that delivers letters</i>	<i>Do you know the people who/that live here?</i>
10) a noun in the plural which is the title/name of a book, a newspaper, a magazine	<i>"The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club" was written by Ch. Dickens.</i>	_____

Subject-Predicate Agreement

The Subject		The Predicate	
		in the singular	in the plural
11) a plural noun denoting time, measure, or distance (=the amount as a whole)		<i>Four hundred miles was a huge distance when a man was no longer young.</i> <i>The fifty pounds he gave me was soon spent.</i>	_____
12) <i>any</i> <i>each</i> <i>n/either</i> <i>none</i>	<i>of</i> + <i>a plural noun</i>	is preferred in careful written English: <i>I don't think any of them knows* (or know) him.</i>	<i>Neither of the French athletes have* (or has) won this year.</i>

Subject-Predicate Agreement

The Subject		The Predicate	
		in the singular	in the plural
13)		<i>* the number of</i>	<i>A number of/ some of</i>
<i>a/the majority of</i> <i>a number of*</i> <i>a lot of</i> <i>plenty of</i> <i>all (of)</i> <i>some (of)</i>	<i>+</i> <i>a</i> <i>plural</i> <i>noun</i>	<i>The number of</i> <i>books in the</i> <i>library has risen</i> <i>to over 5 mln.</i>	<i>refugees have been turned</i> <i>back at the border.</i>
14)		<i>All the furniture</i>	
<i>the majority of</i> <i>any of</i> <i>none of</i> <i>a lot of</i> <i>plenty of</i> <i>all (of)</i> <i>some (of)</i>	<i>+</i> <i>a</i> <i>singular</i> <i>noun</i>	<i>was destroyed in</i> <i>the fire.</i>	<hr/>

Subject-Predicate Agreement

The Subject	The Predicate	
	in the singular	in the plural
15) <i>many a ...</i>	<i>Many a good climber has met his death on this mountain.</i>	_____
16) <u>a collective noun</u> a) denoting a group or collection of similar individuals taken as a whole (<i>mankind, humanity, etc.</i>)	<i>What is mankind?</i>	_____
b) of multitude, denoting the individuals of the group taken separately (<i>people, police, cattle, infantry, cavalry, jury, clergy, etc.</i>)	_____	<i>The police are all over the place.</i>
c) <i>family, committee, crew, army, board, band, party, team, government, company, etc.</i> <i>The Bank of England, The BBC, IBM, Sony</i>	The institution or organisation as a whole unit: <i>The band was beginning to play a selection from the music of Grieg.</i>	The institution or organisation as a collection of individuals: <i>The committee usually raise their hands to vote "Yes".</i>

Subject-Predicate Agreement

The Subject	The Predicate	
	in the singular	in the plural
17) <u>a noun ending in –s</u> a) <i>means, news, economics, linguistics, mathematics, statistics, physics, gymnastics, diabetes, measles, rabies</i>	<i>The news from the Middle East seems very encouraging.</i>	_____
b) <i>belongings, clothes, earnings, goods, outskirts, riches, congratulations, savings, stairs, thanks, surroundings</i>	_____	<i>The company's earnings have increased for the last five years.</i>
18) a syntactic word-group, consisting of 2 nouns connected by <i>and</i>	Meant as a single unit, as one person, thing: <i>The wife and mother was asked with affectionate deference before the plan was made.</i>	Denoting different persons, things, or notions: <i>Sally and I were alone.</i>

Subject-Predicate Agreement

The Subject	The Predicate	
	in the singular	in the plural
18) a syntactic word-group, consisting of 2 nouns connected by <i>and</i>	Meant as a single unit, as one person, thing: <i>The wife and mother was asked with affectionate deference before the plan was made.</i>	Denoting different persons, things, or notions: <i>Sally and I were alone.</i>
19) a word-group denoting arithmetic calculations: a) addition, subtraction, division	<i>Two and five is seven.</i>	_____
b) multiplication	<i>Twice two is four.</i>	<i>Twice two are four.</i>
20) <i>per cent (=percent, %)</i>	+ a singular noun <i>Around 10 per cent of the forest is destroyed each year.</i>	+ a plural noun <i>I'd say that about 50 per cent of the houses need major repairs.</i>

PRACTICE

Replace the infinitives in brackets by the correct form of the verb:

- 1) The quickest means of travel (to be) by plane.
- 2) The majority of doctors (to agree) that smoking is extremely harmful to health.
- 3) There (to be) plenty of room for everyone inside.
- 4) Everybody (to say) the Swiss police (to be) great at finding people.
- 5) A number of students in the class (to be) dying to know where you have been.
- 6) Mumps (to be) an infectious illness in which the glands swell.
- 7) (To have) everyone brought their exercise-books?
- 8) It (to be) my parents who helped me all that time.
- 9) The number of mistakes in your test (to make) my hair stand on end.
- 10) Our dad and grandpa (to be) decorated for his outstanding bravery in the Great War.
- 11) Which of these books (to be) yours?
- 12) The economics of the scheme (to need) to be looked at very carefully.
- 13) Many a famous politician (to take) part in this talk-show.
- 14) The company (to have) now been successfully established for ten years.
- 15) Jennie as well as her friends (not to know) how to pass that exam because she didn't attend any lecture.

The Secondary Parts of the Sentence