

# 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]; B --- C[The Subject]; B --- 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.

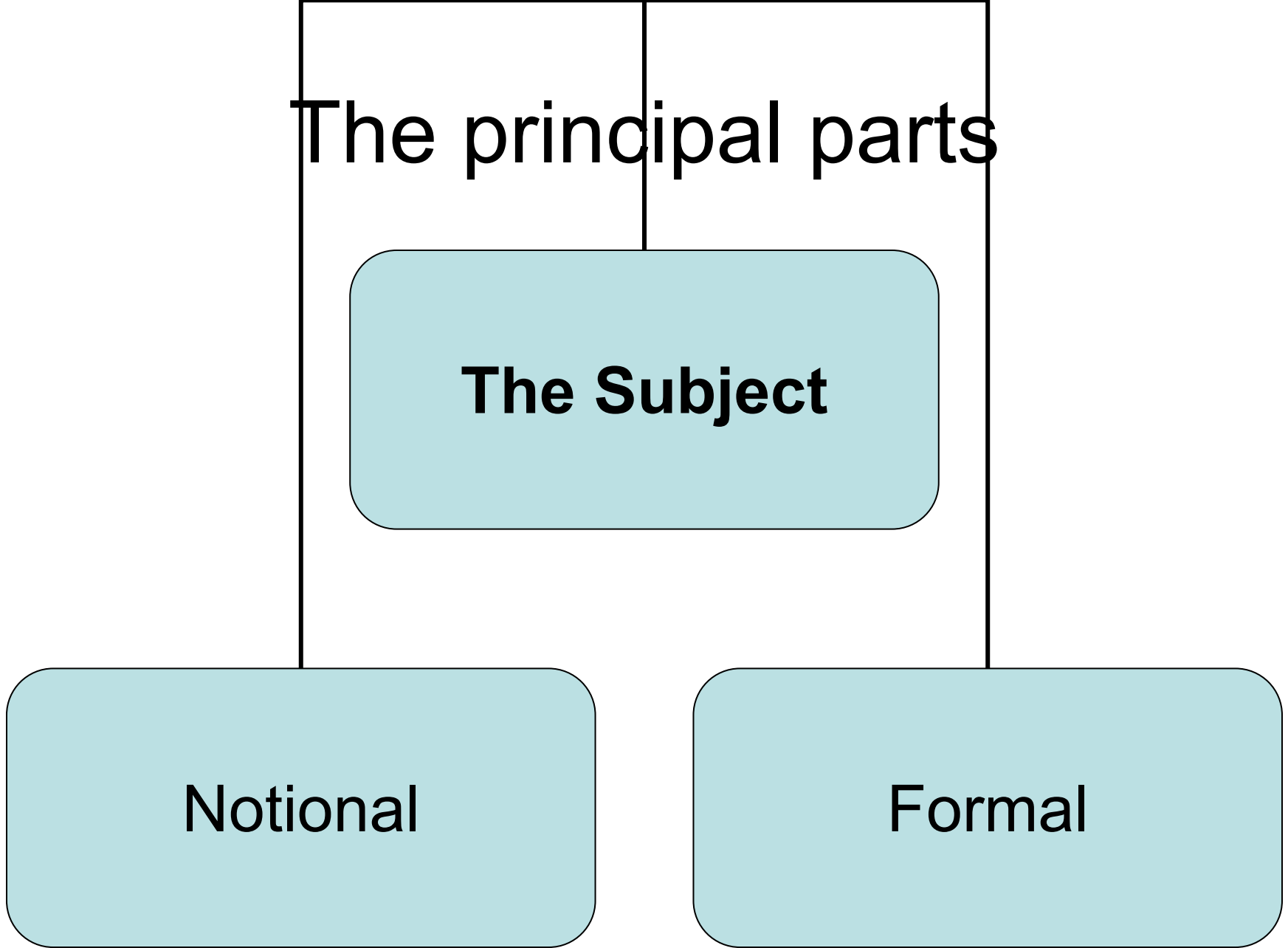
*Seeing* is believing.

# The principal parts

**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 сдать 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

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



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

# Subject-Predicate Agreement

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

# 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
<p>17) <u>a noun ending in -s</u>            a) <i>means, news, economics, linguistics, mathematics, statistics, physics, gymnastics, diabetes, measles, rabies</i></p>	<p><i>The news from the Middle East seems very encouraging.</i></p>	<p>_____</p>
<p>b) <i>belongings, clothes, earnings, goods, outskirts, riches, congratulations, savings, stairs, thanks, surroundings</i></p>	<p>_____</p>	<p><i>The company's earnings have increased for the last five years.</i></p>
<p>18) a syntactic word-group, consisting of 2 nouns connected by <i>and</i></p>	<p>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></p>	<p>Denoting different persons, things, or notions: <i>Sally and I were alone.</i></p>

# 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**