

Subjects and Predicates 1



All sentences must have a subject and a predicate (verb) to express a complete thought. The subject is the part of a sentence that is doing something or is being talked about. The **simple subject** is the subject without its modifiers. The predicate is the part of the sentence that says something about the subject or tells what the subject is doing. The **simple predicate** is the predicate (verb) without the words that describe or modify it. (See 690.2 and 692.2 in *Write Source*.)

Examples

Simple Subject:

The ancient Romans counted their citizens regularly.

Simple Predicate:

The ancient Romans counted their citizens regularly.

Directions

In the sentences that follow, underline the simple subject once and the simple predicate twice. *Note:* Helping verbs (*can, could, should, may, have, had, and so on*) are part of the simple predicate. (See 718.3 in *Write Source* for a list of the most common helping verbs.) The first one has been done for you.

1. The U.S. government conducts a census every 10 years.
2. A census is a survey that counts people by age, gender, occupation, and so on.
3. Different surveys collect different types of information.
4. The United States gathers more census information than any other country.
5. No census information can get anyone into trouble with the law.
6. In ancient times, the local folk disliked any census.