

Complete and Simple Subjects and Predicates

1c. The **simple subject** is the main word or word group that tells *whom* or *what* the sentence is about.

The **complete subject** consists of all the words that tell *whom* or *what* a sentence is about.

SIMPLE SUBJECT The **study** of small insects is a hobby of mine.

COMPLETE SUBJECT **The study of small insects** is a hobby of mine.

1e. The **simple predicate**, or **verb**, is the main word or word group that tells something about the subject.

The **complete predicate** consists of a verb and all the words that modify the verb and complete its meaning.

SIMPLE PREDICATE (VERB) Many people **will listen** with interest to facts about bugs.

COMPLETE PREDICATE Many people **will listen with interest to facts about bugs.**

EXERCISE A Underline each complete subject once and each complete predicate twice.

Example 1. Are any of your friends allergic to the dust mite?

- The microscopic dust mite was discovered less than three decades ago.
- This eight-legged pest is related to the tick and the spider.
- Do you ever wash your pillow in very hot water?
- Someone in your household should probably do so as soon as possible.
- The daily diet of the dust mite consists of tiny skin flakes on your pillow and sheets.
- The creatures leave tiny waste droppings in your bed.
- These microscopic droppings mix with dust in your bedroom and in the house.
- Unfortunately, this tainted dust may cause an allergic reaction in you or a family member.
- Can a concerned person remove these pesky flesh-eaters from bedding?
- Any person with laundry skills can wash bedding in the hottest wash cycle possible.

EXERCISE B Underline each simple subject once and each simple predicate (verb) twice.

Example 1. The tiny bedbug has often found its home in humans' beds.

- The body of the bedbug is flat and wingless.
- This bloodthirsty bug belongs to the insect class.
- The blood of mammals such as humans forms the bedbug's diet.
- A bedbug may grow to a length of a quarter of an inch.
- The little insect usually sucks the blood of its host at night.