

ONE PAGE NOTES ON SIMPLE SENTENCES

TERMINOLOGY

A **subject** is who or what the sentence is about (a noun or pronoun). It's the driver of the sentence, the thing or person doing the action.

A **predicate** is the action that the subject is doing or being (a verb).

A **simple sentence** is a sentence with only one independent clause, communicating a complete thought, and containing at least one subject and at least one predicate.

A **clause** is a group of words that contain a complete thought with at least one subject and at least one predicate. A simple sentence contains only one clause, while a compound or complex sentence contains two or more clauses.

An **independent clause** can stand on its own as a complete thought (as opposed to a dependent or subordinate clause used in complex sentences). An independent clause may stand alone as a simple sentence, or be a part of a larger complex or compound sentence.

A **dependent or subordinate clause** cannot stand on its own as a complete thought (or as simple sentence) because it depends upon being paired with an independent clause in order to form a complex sentence.

SIMPLE SENTENCE EXAMPLES:

The brown dog ran home.

This simple sentence contains only one thought with one subject and one predicate.

The brown dog and white kitten ran home.

This simple sentence contains only one thought with two subjects and one predicate.

The brown dog ran home and bit the mailman.

This simple sentence contains only one thought with one subject and two predicates.

The brown dog and orange cat ran home, slept, and bit the mailman.

This simple sentence contains only one thought with two subjects and three predicates.

The brown dog was sleeping.

This simple sentence contains only one thought with one subject and one predicate.

TYPES OF VERBS

Action Verbs	Helping Verbs	Linking Verbs	State of Being Verbs
Ran, kicked, thought, believed, like, wanted, yearned, listened, danced, jumped, climbed, considered	am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been, have, has, had, do, does, did, could, should, would, can, shall, will, may, might, must	appear, become, feel, grow, keep, look, prove, remain, seem, smell, sound, stay, taste, turn	am, are, was, were, will be, shall be

