SIMPLE SUBJECT

The SIMPLE SUBJECT is the main word or words in the complete subject (descriptive words are NOT part of the simple subject). It tells the reader whom or what the sentence is about.

Ex) An expectant seal builds a shelter in a snowdrift. Who built the shelter? The seal.
Ex) The cozy shelter hides her newborn pup. What hides the pup? The shelter.

When a proper name is used as a subject, all parts of the name make up the simple subject.
Ex) Robert Peary explored the North Pole.

SIMPLE PREDICATE

The SIMPLE PREDICATE, or fancy word for the VERB, is the main word or words in the complete predicate.

Ex) Prairie pioneers lived in sod houses.
Ex) Few trees grow in the prairie grasslands.

PRACTICE: Underline the simple subject in each sentence and circle the simple predicate.

1. These homes are built up from the bottom of the pond.

2. Strong saplings are anchored into the mud.

3. The sturdy rodents then pile debris into a mound.

4. Branches buried in the mud are food for the winter.

5. The whole family lives together in the snug burrow.

6. Their warm bodies keep the temperature comfortable.

7. Predators can claw at the frozen lodge.

8. They traveled west from their home in Tennessee.
COMPLETE SUBJECT

Every complete sentence has two basic parts: a subject and a predicate. The COMPLETE SUBJECT includes all the words that tell whom or what the sentence is about. To find, ask who or what does something or is something. Easy rule: Slice the sentence in half before the verb.

Ex) Some architects bring nature indoors.

The COMPLETE PREDICATE includes the verb and all the words that complete the verb’s meaning. To find, ask what the subject does or is.

Ex) Some architects bring nature indoors.

PRACTICE: Underline the complete subjects and circle the complete predicates.

1. Frank Lloyd Wright designed an unusual home in the Pennsylvania woods.
2. The owners called the house Fallingwater.
3. Sections of the house jut over a waterfall.
4. Its stone walls blend in with the natural surroundings.
5. More than 130,000 people visit the site each year.
6. Tourists can see a very different house near Spring Green, Wisconsin.
7. The architect Alex Jordan built House on the Rock on a column of sandstone.
8. Its many rooms contain unique furnishings.
9. An automated band plays music all day for the tourists.
10. This odd house attracts half a million visitors a year.

LOOKING FOR MORE PRACTICE? Underline the simple subjects and circle the simple predicates.

1. The sun is much bigger than all the other planets.
2. Planets in the solar system reflect light from the sun.
3. Stars twinkle in the sky at night.
4. Planets shine with a steadier light.
5. Stars such as our sun make their own light and heat.
Underline the complete subject and circle the complete predicate in the following sentences.

1. Some of the planets have satellites, or moons.
2. Our planet has only one satellite.
3. The largest planet is Jupiter.
4. Asteroids, meteoroids, and comets belong to our solar system.
5. The surface of Mercury is covered with many craters.