A predicate is a group of words that complete a sentence. The subject names the person who performs the action. The predicate does the rest of the work.

A simple predicate consists of just one word – a verb. It may also consist of a verb string, or compound verb.

Study the examples given below.

- The dog barked. (Here the predicate barked consists of just one word.)
- The dogs have been barking. (Here the predicate consists of a verb string – have been barking.)
- John took out his pen and started writing. (Here the predicate consists of a compound verb – took out his pen and started writing.)

As you can see, a compound predicate consists of two or more simple predicates.

A complete predicate consists of the verb and all accompanying modifiers.

The adjective that follows a linking verb usually tells us something about the subject.

- Melissa is beautiful.

Here the predicate adjective beautiful says something about the noun.

- His actions have been despicable.

The noun that follows a linking verb tells us what the subject is.

- My sister is a doctor.

**Exercise**

Identify the subject and predicate in the following sentences.

1. My father works at a bank.
   Subject ..........................................., Predicate ...................................................

2. The garbage smells bad.
   Subject ..........................................., Predicate ...................................................
3. The glacier has been melting.
Subject .................................., Predicate ...........................................

4. He hit the ball with his head.
Subject .................................., Predicate ...........................................

5. Children rush about.
Subject .................................., Predicate ...........................................

**Answers**

1. Subject: my father; Predicate: works at a bank
2. Subject: the garbage; Predicate: smells bad
3. Subject: the glacier; Predicate: has been melting
4. Subject: hit; Predicate: hit the ball with his head
5. Subject: children; Predicate: rush about