That part of the sentence which does not include the subject is called the **predicate**.

The most important word in the **predicate** is the verb. The verb is usually modified by an adverb or its equivalent which is called the **extension of the verb or adverbial qualification**. The adverbial qualification may be of different kinds.

Read the sentence given below:

He did his job sincerely. (Subject - he; predicate - did his job sincerely)

Here the verb **did** is modified by the adverbial qualification **sincerely**.

More examples are given below:

- I **called** them **one by one**. (Here the extension of the verb is the adverbial phrase one by one.)
- He **seemed** disappointed. (Here the extension of the verb is the past participle disappointed.)
- She **went** away **crying**. (Here the extension of the verb is the present participle crying.)
- He **decided** to go. (Here the extension of the verb is the infinitive to go.)

**The object**

If the verb in the predicate is transitive it must have an **object** to complete its meaning.

Read the sentence given below:

He bought a **bag**.

The words ‘He bought’ by themselves do not make complete sense. But ‘He bought a bag’ expresses a complete thought. Here a **bag** is the object of the verb **bought**.

**Kinds of Objects**

The object is always a noun or a noun-equivalent.

- He read a **story**. (Here the object story is a noun.)
- We have invited **them**. (Here the object them is a pronoun.)
- We should help **the needy**. (Here the object the needy is an adjective used as a noun.)
- She loves **singing**. (Here the object singing is a gerund.)
- She wanted **to go**. (Here the object to go is an infinitive.)

Like the subject-word, the object-word may also have some attributes.

- He shot a **tiger**. (Here the article a is the attribute of the object-word tiger.)
I looked at the **boy’s face**. (Here the attribute boy’s is a noun in the possessive case.)

**Direct and Indirect objects**

Read the sentences given below:

I gave **him a present**.
She told **me a story**.

In sentence 1, **present** is the direct object of **gave** and **him** is the indirect object.

I gave ... what? A present (direct object)
I gave ... to whom? Him (indirect object)

In sentence 2, **story** is the direct object of **told** and **me** is the indirect object.

You will have noticed that **the direct object** is the answer to the question **what?** and the **indirect object** is the answer to the question **to whom?**