

Lesson
3**Simple Predicates, or Verbs***Teaching*

The **simple predicate**, or **verb**, is the main word or words in the complete predicate. In the following sentence, the simple predicate, or verb, is underlined.

Many unusual plants grow in the rain forest. (*grow in the rain forest* is the complete predicate)

VERB

The verb can be a single word as in the sentence above, or a **verb phrase**, as in the sentence below.

Exotic animals can be found there.

VERB PHRASE

Verbs are words used to express actions, conditions, or states of being. **Linking verbs** tell what the subject is. **Action verbs** tell what the subject does, even when the action cannot be seen.

Identifying Simple Predicates, or Verbs

Underline the simple predicate, or verb, in each sentence.

1. Most of the rain forests grow near the equator.
2. The temperature in the rain forest remains hot all year long.
3. Rain falls nearly every day in some part of the forest.
4. Humid air makes the rain forest uncomfortable for most people.
5. More types of trees grow in the rain forest than anywhere else on earth.
6. Some trees reach 200 feet in height.
7. The trees block the sunlight from the floor of the forest.
8. People walk through the forest with little trouble.
9. Some rain forests contain a jungle.
10. A jungle forms in certain sunny areas of the forest.
11. Dense plant growth makes travel through the jungle difficult.
12. Rain forests harbor about half of all the species of plants in the world.
13. Flowering plants bloom all year long.
14. Air plants thrive on the branches of trees.
15. Ferns and orchids are two kinds of air plants.
16. Other plants twine around the branches and trunks of trees.
17. Many different kinds of birds and reptiles live in the forest.
18. Colorful parrots eat fruits and nuts from the trees.
19. Monkeys swing from tree to tree.
20. Lizards and snakes slither among the branches.

Simple Predicates, or Verbs

More Practice

A. Identifying Simple Predicates, or Verbs

Underline the simple predicate, or verb, in each of the following sentences.

1. The Amazon rain forest is the biggest in the world.
2. Other rain forests grow in Africa, Asia, and islands in the Pacific Ocean.
3. All rain forests stay green throughout the year.
4. Thundershowers soak the rain forest frequently.
5. The tops of the tallest trees form an upper canopy over the forest.
6. Slightly shorter trees make a lower canopy high above the forest floor.
7. Some animals live their entire lives between the upper and lower canopy.
8. They never descend to the ground.
9. Sloths feed on the abundant leaves in the canopy.
10. Anteaters and opossums hang by their tails from the tree branches.

B. Writing Simple Predicates, or Verbs

Choose one of the following simple predicates, or verbs, to complete each sentence below.

live	roam	fly	build	sip
hop	study	contain	eat	grow

1. Colorful toucans _____ from branch to branch in the rain forest.
2. Hummingbirds _____ nectar from the flowering trees.
3. Several kinds of frogs _____ from branch to branch.
4. Deer, hogs, and other animals _____ through the forest.
5. They _____ roots, seeds, leaves, and fruit.
6. Termites _____ huge colonies.
7. Different nuts and fruits _____ on the many trees.
8. Parts of some plants _____ special medicines.
9. Scientists _____ the many plants and animals in the rain forest.
10. A few native people _____ in small villages in the forest.

Lesson
3

Simple Predicates, or Verbs

Application

A. Writing Simple Predicates, or Verbs, in Sentences

Use each of these words as the simple predicate, or verb, in a sentence.

1. spread _____

2. shelter _____

3. give _____

4. make _____

5. save _____

CHAPTER 1

B. Revising

Read this paragraph carefully. In some sentences, the writer has left out the simple predicates, or verbs. When you find a sentence without a simple predicate, or verb, insert this proofreading symbol \wedge and write a verb in the space above it.

EXAMPLE Rain forests ^{serve} \wedge as a precious natural resource.

Rain forests places of great natural beauty. They contain more species of plants and animals than any other forests in the world. Many plants rare and valuable. Some animals in one particular rain forest and nowhere else. In the past, few people lived in the forest. Most visitors just to study the plants and animals. Today, more people want the products of the forest. They valuable trees, such as mahogany and rosewood. They capture some of the rare animals and reptiles. Others claim the land itself. They the rain forest for their farms and ranches. Miners for valuable minerals. Many people fear for the unique plants and animals of the rain forest.

Lesson
4

Verb Phrases

Teaching

The simple predicate, or verb, may consist of two or more words. These words are called the **verb phrase**. A verb phrase is made up of a main verb and one or more helping verbs.

A **main verb** can stand by itself as the simple predicate of a sentence.

The human brain directs our bodies.

MAIN VERB (ACTION)

Our brain is very important.

MAIN VERB (LINKING)

Helping verbs help the main verb express action or show time.

The brain could be called the body's control center. (*could be* is the helping verb; *called* is the main verb)

Common Helping Verbs

Forms of be	is, am, are, was, were, be, been
Forms of do	do, does, did
Forms of have	has, have, had
Others	may, might, can, could, will, would, shall, should

Identifying Verb Phrases

Underline the verb phrase in each sentence. Include main verbs and helping verbs.

- The human brain is receiving messages all the time.
- Some messages are telling the brain about conditions in the body.
- Our senses will send messages about the world around us.
- The brain can process the messages very quickly.
- It can guide the body's reactions in an instant.
- Our brain could be compared to a library, a storage area of information.
- Even our thoughts and emotions are coming from the brain.
- No other animals' brains have developed as highly as human brains.
- I can do many activities impossible for other animals.
- What other animal can write a song or a poem?
- Do you know the three main parts of the brain?
- The cerebrum has been studied by many scientists.
- Damage to the cerebellum might cause a problem with balance.
- Certain body functions are controlled by the brain stem.
- Special x-ray machines may teach us more about the brain.
- Some brain diseases have been discovered with these machines.

Verb Phrases*More Practice***A. Identifying Main Verbs and Helping Verbs**

Underline the main verb once and the helping verb twice in each of the following sentences.

EXAMPLE Scientists are learning new information about the brain.

1. The human brain is studied by many kinds of scientists.
2. Some have been looking at the chemicals in the brain.
3. The wrong balance of chemicals could change our thoughts or actions.
4. Other scientists are learning about diseases of the brain.
5. They might study brain waves with special instruments.
6. Powerful machines can take detailed pictures of the brain.
7. Doctors may try new medicines for certain diseases.
8. Some researchers are studying processes of thought and memory.
9. Exactly how does the brain work?
10. We may know the answer to that question in the future.

B. Writing Verb Phrases

Add a helping verb to complete the verb phrase in each sentence below.

1. _____ you understand the thought patterns of animals?
2. Scientists _____ been doing studies on animal brains.
3. For a long time they _____ known that the brains of other animals are more simple than human ones.
4. They _____ know for sure that worms and insects have groups of nerve cells.
5. These animals _____ gather information from their senses.
6. They _____ react to things but cannot think.
7. The brains of sharks and other fish _____ remained rather simple over time.
8. These animals _____ listed far below squirrels in brain power.
9. The chimpanzee's brain _____ be classified as most like the human brain.
10. No one _____ discovered an organ as complex as the human brain.