

Language - Simple Sentence Structure

Reading/discussion

We use sentences every day when we speak and when we write but today we are going to pull them apart and see how they are made. A sentence is a set of words which contain a complete thought or idea. A simple sentence contains just one thought or idea.

Every complete sentence has a **subject** called a **noun phrase**, and a **predicate**, called a **verb phrase**. The subject is usually at the beginning of the sentence and it tells us what or who the sentence is about, the predicate tells us what the subject is doing or what state it is in. A simple sentence only has one verb. When the verb is about an action it is often followed by an **object** and when it is about a state it is followed by a **complement**.

That all sounds very complicated for something which is called simple so lets look at some examples:

Noun phrase	Predicate (verb phrase)
Tommy	runs

Noun phrase	Predicate (verb phrase)	
	verb	object
The boy	kicked	the ball

Noun phrase	Predicate (verb phrase)	
	verb	complement
Jane	felt	sad

Name _____

Date _____

Language - Simple Sentence Structure (Cont'd)

A simple sentence isn't always a short sentence. You can add **adjectives**, **adverbs** and **prepositional phrases** without changing it into a complex sentence, as long as you still have only one verb phrase.

Here is an example with an adverb:

Noun phrase	Predicate (verb phrase)	
Tommy	verb	adverb
	runs	<i>fast</i>

and here is an example with a **prepositional phrase** and an adjective:

Noun phrase	Predicate (verb phrase)	
	verb	object
The boy <i>with black hair</i>	kicked	the <i>orange</i> ball

Name _____

Date _____

Language - Simple Sentence Structure Activities

A. Can you find the noun and verb phrases in these sentences?

Draw a red circle around the noun phrases and a blue circle around the verb phrases in the following sentences:

1. The little boy threw the ball.
2. The cat jumped into its basket.
3. The blue bird flew over the wall.
4. Mary wore her yellow dress.
5. Tom feels very sad.

B. Construct some simple sentences.

See if you can write some of your own sentences in the table below. The first one has been done for you.

Noun phrase	Predicate (verb phrase)	
	verb	object
The naughty boy	broke	the expensive vase

Name _____

Date _____

Language - Simple Sentence Structure Answers

Activity A.

1. The little boy threw the ball.
2. The cat jumped into its basket.
3. The blue bird flew over the wall.
4. Mary wore her yellow dress.
5. Tom feels very sad.

Activity B.

The only criteria are that the subject and predicate of the sentences the children write are correctly placed on the table.