

Nouns: Subject/Predicate

Every sentence can be divided into two parts, a subject and a predicate. The subject represents who or what the sentence is about. The predicate represents what happened or what was done. In the sentence, "Betsy ran to school," "Betsy" is the subject, and "ran to school" is the predicate.

Nouns may be used as the subject of a sentence. For example, in the sentence "The boy ran to the house," the subject of the sentence is "boy."

Predicate nouns are nouns contained in the predicate that explain or identify the subject. For example, in the sentence "San Jose is a city in California," the predicate noun is "city." Predicate words are connected to a subject by linking verbs.

Read through a variety of sentences with the student. While reading, discuss sentence structure. Explain that sentences can be divided into two parts, the subject and the predicate. In the sentence below, help the student determine that "Joan" is the subject and "is a student in that school" is the predicate.

Sentence: Joan is a student in that school.

Subject: Joan

Predicate: is a student in that school

Once he or she understands how subjects and predicates are determined, help him or her find nouns in both the subject and predicate portions of sentences.

In the sentence above, "Joan" is the subject noun and "student" is the predicate noun. Review subject noun and predicate noun identification orally. Read a sentence aloud. Ask the student to listen and then identify the subject and predicate nouns. Discuss why he or she thinks a specific word is the subject or predicate noun. Determine his or her rationale for making these distinctions. Have the student practice identifying subject and predicate nouns by using sentences from his or her schoolbooks as well.