



What Makes a Complete Sentence

KS2 ENGLISH

GRAMMAR

Ages 9-12 ⌚ 3 min read

The Three Essential Parts

A **complete sentence** is like a complete thought — it has a beginning, middle, and end that all work together. Every complete sentence needs **three main ingredients**: a **subject**, a **verb**, and it must express a complete idea. Without all three, you just have a fragment — a broken piece of a sentence that leaves your reader confused.

Think of it like a sandwich. The **subject** is the bread at the bottom, the **verb** is the filling in the middle, and the **complete idea** is the bread on top. Without one layer, your sandwich falls apart!

The Subject: Who or What?

The **subject** is the **person, place, or thing** doing the action or being described. It answers the question "who or what?" For example, in the sentence "**The cat** jumped onto the table," the subject is "the cat" because that's who is jumping. The subject usually comes at the start of the sentence, and it's often a **noun** (a naming word).

The Verb: The Action or State

The **verb** is the doing word. It shows **action** or **state of being**. In "The cat jumped onto the table," the verb is "jumped" because that's the action happening. Some verbs don't show action — they just describe a state, like "is," "are," "was," or "were." For example: "She **is** happy." Here, "is" is the verb that connects the subject to the description.

Think of it like a game. The **subject** is the player, and the **verb** is what they're doing — running, jumping, or sitting still. Without the action, nobody knows what's happening!

The Complete Idea

Finally, your sentence must express a **complete thought**. This means it should make sense on its own and leave the reader feeling satisfied. "The dog ran" is complete —

you understand what happened. But "When the dog ran" is incomplete because it leaves you hanging: when the dog ran... what? You need more information.

Putting It All Together

Let's look at a strong example: "**Emma painted** a beautiful mural yesterday." The **subject** is "Emma," the **verb** is "painted," and together they create a **complete idea** that makes perfect sense. You know who did the action, what the action was, and what happened. That's a complete sentence!