**Module**: Written Expression **Level** : 1st year LMD

**Lesson**: Parts of the Sentence

Good writing is made up of **clear**, **grammatical** sentences. You can take a step toward writing good sentences by understanding their structure.

A **sentence** is a group of words that contain a **subject** and a **predicate**. It expresses a complete thought and is not dependent on another group of words to complete its meaning.

*The subject* is the noun or pronoun that **names who** or **what** the sentence is about. T*he predicate* is the **verb** and its **objects**, **complements**, and **modifiers**.

**1/ Subjects :**

Unlike other languages, every sentence in English must have a subject. The only exception is a sentence that expresses a command : *Stop !* In this kind of sentence, we understand that the subject is « you ».

→ **A simple subject (SS)** is a single noun or pronoun.

**e.g** : - **Picasso** painted many magnificent paintings.

- The little **dog** in the house next door barks all day long.

- Speak to us ! ( the subject implied is : **you**)

→ **A complete subject** is a group of words that includes : **the simple subject + its modifiers**.

**e.g : - The student rally** began at noon**. (rally** is the simple subject, **the student rally** is the complete subject.**)**

**-** **The little dog in the house next door** barks all day long.

- **The candidate from Benton Hall** will speak at two o’clock.

→ **A compound subject** consists of two or more simple subjects joined by a conjunction and have the same predicate.

**e.g : - Samuel King** *and* **William Black** took the first aerial photographs.

- ***Either* he *or* she** will fly the ballon.

**2/ Predicates :**

→ **A simple predicate** consists of at least a verb that tells what the subject did or how it was acted upon.

**e.g : -** Suzan **arrived**.

- the door **was knocked.**

- Picasso **painted** many magnificent paintings.

→ **A complete predicate** is the group of words that include **the simple predicate + its modifiers**.

**e.g : -** Suzan **arrived to the party with her sister.** ( **arrived** is *the simple predicate*. **Arrived to the party with her siste**r is *the complete predicate*.)

**-** The door **was knoched at noon.**

**-** The candidate from Benton Hall **will speak at two o’clock.**

→ **A compound predicate** consists of two or more verbs joined by a conjunction and that have the same subject.

**e.g : -** The rumble of the train **echoes through the valley *and* rolls over the hills.**

**-** The door **was knocked and opened at noon.**

In addition to the verb, a predicate may also include **a direct object**, **indirect object**, **subject** **complement**, or **object complement**. It may also include other modifiers such as **expressions of time** and **place**. These various kinds of predicates create different **sentence patterns**.

**Practice**: **underline the complete subject and circle the simple one in each sentence :**

1. A variety of cookbooks are best sellers at stores around the country.
2. The portraits have been sold at high prices.
3. Cookbooks include bits of history, a pinch of geography, and dollops of philosophy.
4. Regional recipes mix these ingredients well.
5. The teachers and their students went on a trip.
6. Bundled in coats, the student stroll in the avenue evening.

* **Underline the complete predicate and circle the simple one in each sentence :**

1. Suspense novels climb to the top of the best-seller lists also.
2. A good suspense writer usually sets the action in exotic locations.
3. The hero often combines grace and ruthless drive.
4. The plot will move quickly but will seldom cover more than a week’s time.