

Simple sentences

Sentences can be simple, compound or complex.

A simple sentence has a **subject** (a noun – what the sentence is about) and a **verb**. A simple sentence will make sense on its own.

The simplest sentences have just two words. For example:

Cats purr.

subject ↗ ↖ verb

(someone or something) (what the subject is doing, will do or did)

Can you split these simple sentences into subjects and verbs. Just think, what does what?

	Subject	Verb
Babies cry.		
Boys climb.		
Girls giggle.		
Teachers teach.		
Children learn.		
Trees grow.		
Fish swim.		
Ducks quack.		
Rain pours.		
The Sun shines.		

Think of a verb. How many different subjects might be able to do it? Think of a subject – how many verbs can you think of to follow it?

Ask for lots of verbal examples. Simple sentences can, of course, be much longer; the only requirement is that they have just one clause (ie, verb). You could ask children to extend the sentences by adding an adjective (eg Babies cry loudly), a noun (eg Boys climb trees) or a noun phrase (Trees grow in our garden).