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Simple sentences

The message rescue crew





Grammar at a glance

When you want to...	Form to use	Worked example
Finish a statement	subject + predicate	The brass bell rings.
Find the whole subject	noun with its describing words	The old brass bell rings at noon.
Track who acts	subject + verb + object	Asha follows Dev. Dev follows Asha.
Expand one clause	one subject, shared actions	The two kites dip and turn together.

SELECT A ROW TO OPEN ITS LESSON

SIMPLE SENTENCES

Complete statements and fragments



The photograph shows Lily holding a red bag and Sam holding a green box. The caption says “Lily with the red bag.” We can identify Lily, but the caption has not made a complete statement about her.

A complete statement tells us something about a subject. “The bright lantern” names something. “The bright lantern glows” makes a statement.

USE	EXAMPLE	WHAT TO NOTICE
Only a naming group	Lily with the red bag.	This names Lily and adds a detail. It does not make a complete statement about her.
Make a complete statement	Lily holds the red bag.	Lily tells who; holds the red bag tells what she does. The thought is complete.
A state is complete too	The bag is red.	Is links the bag to its description. A statement does not need a movement action.

HOW THE PATTERN WORKS

Subject	Complete predicate	Another complete pattern
Lily	holds the red bag	The bag | is red

Can I fix every fragment by adding a full stop?

No. Punctuation marks boundaries; it does not supply a missing verb or finish a thought. The green box remains a naming group even when written The green box.

YOUR TURN

Choose the complete statement.

The lantern glows. / The bright lantern.

> Answer • The lantern glows.
> Glows tells what the lantern does.

SIMPLE SENTENCES

Whole subjects and predicates



Lily and Sam carry one box together. A caption must include both helpers.

The whole subject names who or what the sentence is about. The predicate tells us what that subject does or is.

USE	EXAMPLE	WHAT TO NOTICE
Keep both helpers	Lily and Sam carry the box.	Lily and Sam is one shared subject group. Carry the box is the predicate.
Describe the thing instead	The green box is large.	The green box is now the subject. Is large says something about it.
Keep the whole group	The two helpers carry the box.	The whole subject is The two helpers, not only the word helpers.

HOW THE PATTERN WORKS

Whole subject	Verb inside the predicate	Whole predicate
Lily and Sam	carry	carry the box

Is the predicate always one action word?

No. A predicate includes the verb and the rest of what is said about the subject. In The box is green, the predicate is is green; it reports a state.

YOUR TURN

Whole subject in “The small dog sleeps”?

dog sleeps / The small dog

> **Answer • The small dog**
> Keep its describing words with the naming group.

SIMPLE SENTENCES

Word order changes meaning



The sorting desk has changed “Lily holds the bag” into “The bag holds Lily”. The second sentence has a subject and verb, but it reverses the roles and does not match the photograph.

In a statement such as “The dog follows Sam”, swapping the two names changes who follows whom.

USE	EXAMPLE	WHAT TO NOTICE
Match the visible roles	Lily holds the bag.	Lily is doing the holding. The bag is what she holds.
Swap the roles	The bag holds Lily.	The subject is now the bag. This grammatical pattern makes a different claim that the picture does not support.
Repair an incomplete verb group	Lily is holding the bag.	Is holding is the complete verb group. Lily holding the bag alone is a fragment in this caption task.

HOW THE PATTERN WORKS

Subject: holder	Verb	Object: held thing	Another verb group
Lily	holds	the bag	is holding

Does every group containing an -ing word make a sentence?

No. Lily holding the bag lacks a complete verb for this stand-alone statement. Adding is gives Lily is holding the bag. Other sentence patterns exist, so check the whole structure.

YOUR TURN

The cat chases the toy. Who does the chasing?

The cat / The toy

> Answer • The cat
> The subject performs the action here.

SIMPLE SENTENCES

A simple sentence need not be short



The final picture shows Lily and Sam carrying one green box together. “Lily and Sam carry the box” is already complete. We can add green and together to make it more precise without adding another clause.

A simple sentence has one independent clause. It can have a long subject, extra detail or more than one verb sharing a subject.

USE	EXAMPLE	WHAT TO NOTICE
Keep the core	Lily and Sam carry the box.	A shared subject and one predicate make one complete clause.
Add supported details	Lily and Sam carry the green box together.	Green identifies the box; together describes the teamwork. The sentence still has one clause.
Compare a second clause	Lily carries the bag and Sam holds the box.	Lily carries the bag and Sam holds the box each have their own subject and predicate. This is a compound sentence.

HOW THE PATTERN WORKS

Shared subject	Core predicate	Useful details	Expanded predicate
Lily and Sam	carry the box	green · together	carry the green box together

Does any sentence with and have to be compound?

No. And can join words inside one clause, such as Lily and Sam. It forms a compound sentence here when it connects two independent clauses, each able to stand as a complete statement.

YOUR TURN

Is “Noor and Ava open the small gate carefully” simple?

No, it has too many words. / Yes, the shared subject has one predicate in one clause.

> Answer • Yes, the shared subject has one predicate in one clause.
> Word count does not define a simple sentence.

ONE LAST CHALLENGE

How much can one sentence hold?

Two kites move above the trees. Write one simple sentence that tells us their colour, movement and location.



A POSSIBLE ANSWER

Two red kites dip and turn above the trees.

Dip and turn share the subject two red kites. The sentence has one independent clause.

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