

**Subjects of Sentences:  
Complete Subject and Simple Subject**

The part of the sentence that you have been writing is called the *complete subject*. There is always a main word in the complete subject. This main word is called the *simple subject*.

**\*\*The simple subject is the main word in the complete subject.\*\***

**EXAMPLE** The four new students arrived early.  
*Complete subject* The four new students  
*Simple subject* students

**EXAMPLE** A round walnut table with five legs stood in the middle of the dining room.  
*Complete subject* A round walnut table with five legs  
*Simple subject* table

Note that the main word of the subject (*students, table*) cannot be omitted. Without this word the sentences do not make sense.

The four new...arrived early.  
A round walnut...with five legs stood in the middle of the dining room.

When the subject is only one word, name, or title, the simple subject and the complete subject are the same.

**EXAMPLES** **Jets** break the sound barrier. [one word]  
**Aunt Carmen** owns a grocery store. [name]  
**Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry** is a novel by Mildred Taylor. [title]

In the last example, *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* is the title of a single book; therefore, all the words in the title make up the simple subject; in this sentence, they are also the complete subject.

**Identifying Complete Subjects and Simple Subjects**

Write the complete and simple subjects of the following sentences.

**EXAMPLE** Stories about time travel make exciting reading.  
*Complete subject:* Stories about time travel  
*Simple subject:* Stories

1. Ray Bradbury is a writer of science fiction.  
Complete subject:  
Simple subject:
2. *The Golden Apples of the Sun* is a collection of several of his short stories.  
Complete subject:  
Simple subject:
3. My favorite story in that book is "A Sound of Thunder."  
Complete subject:  
Simple subject:
4. The main character in the story is called Mr. Eckels.  
Complete subject:  
Simple subject:
5. For ten thousand dollars, Mr. Eckels joins Time Safari, Inc.  
Complete subject:  
Simple subject:
6. He is looking for the dinosaur Tyrannosaurus rex.  
Complete subject:  
Simple subject:
7. With four other men, Bradbury's fictional hero travels over sixty million years back in time.  
Complete subject:  
Simple subject:
8. On the safari, trouble develops.  
Complete subject:  
Simple subject:
9. Because of one misstep, the past is altered.  
Complete subject:  
Simple subject:
10. The consequences of that false step echo through time.  
Complete subject:  
Simple subject: