

**Parts of Sentences:
The Predicate**

Predicate comes from a Latin word meaning "to proclaim; to say." A predicate says something about the subject.

*****The predicate of a sentence is the part that says something about the subject.*****

In these sentences the predicates are boldfaced.

Old Faithful is a **giant geyser in Yellowstone National Park.**

Jade Snow Wong **wrote about growing up in San Francisco's Chinatown.**

The predicate in the first sentence, *is a giant geyser in Yellowstone National Park*, says something about the subject, *Old Faithful*. In the second sentence, *wrote about growing up in San Francisco's Chinatown* tells what the subject, *Jade Snow Wong*, did.

Just as the subject does not always come at the beginning of a sentence, so does the predicate not always come at the end of a sentence. When the subject comes in the middle of a sentence, a part of the predicate usually stands before it; when the subject comes at the end of the sentence, the whole predicate stands before it.

Notice the positions of these predicates:

EXAMPLES **Late in the night we heard a noise.**

Outside the tent was a baby bear.

Identifying Predicates

Underline the predicates in the following sentences. Remember that a part or all of the predicate may come before the subject.

1. Roberto Clemente won four National League batting titles in his career.
2. In 1966 he was his league's Most Valuable Player.
3. Clemente played right field for Pittsburgh.
4. He had a lifetime batting average of .317.
5. Clemente was chosen for twelve All-Star teams.

6. Twice Clemente helped lead the Pirates to World Series victories.
7. In fourteen World Series games, Clemente never went hitless.
8. Clemente was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame.
9. Clemente died in a plane crash off the coast of his native Puerto Rico.
10. Teams of people flew to Nicaragua with aid for earthquake victims.

Writing Predicates

Make a sentence out of each of the following groups of words by adding predicates to fill the blank or blanks.

EXAMPLES 1. A flock of geese ().

A flock of geese flew high overhead.

2. () a red squirrel ().

From a nearby tree, a red squirrel scolded us.

1. My favorite mystery story ().

2. The tides of the ocean ().

3. The skyscrapers of New York ().

4. () my family ().

5. () the students ().