WHAT IS A PREDICATE?

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A predicate is a sentence or clause that modifies a subject. A predicate can either be a verb or a verb phrase plus any other modifier. If a predicate contains only a verb or a verb phrase, it's known as a simple predicate. If it contains either a verb or a verb phrase plus any other modifier, it is known as a complete predicate. To identify a predicate in a sentence is very simple since you only need to find out what the subject does or what the subject is.

PREDICATE EXAMPLES

John walked faster than James.

In this sentence, "walked faster than James" is the predicate.

Joan recited a poem to her classmates.

Here "recited a poem to her classmates" is the predicate.

PREDICATE EXAMPLES IN SENTENCES

- Ann cried.
- Ann cried loudly
- Ann cried loudly on her birthday.

The predicate in these examples all describe what the subject

did.

PREDICATE EXAMPLES IN CLAUSES

A predicate can be contained in an independent or dependent clause.

• Because she hadn't cleared her school fees, Ann was not allowed to sit for her final exam.

In this sentence, there are two predicates. The independent clause comes after a comma and contains the predicate "was not allowed to sit for her final exam."

"Because she hadn't cleared her school fees" is the dependent clause and contains the predicate "hadn't cleared her school fees." The subject here is "her school fees."

SIMPLE PREDICATE

A simple predicate contains a single verb or verb phrase without any modifiers. It can be used in a sentence as a single word. In this case, the word is a verb.

VERB PHRASE PREDICATES

A verb phrase can also be a simple predicate if it has no modifiers nor objects.

MULTI-WORD PREDICATES

A predicate can also be more than one word. This will least include at least one verb or verb phrase. A predicate can also comprise multiple words, including a verb or a verb phrase.

COMPOUND PREDICATES

A compound predicate comprises of two or more verbs. It can take different variations of predicates already discussed above, apart from the simple predicate as long as it's composed of two or more verbs.

PREDICATE ADJECTIVE

A predicate adjective tells more information about the subject of a verb. It comes after a linking verb in a sentence.

