

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."

