

TUTORIAL

Simple Sentences

A simple sentence is made up of one independent clause. In order for a clause to be independent, it must be able to stand on its own as a sentence, which means it needs a **subject** (a noun) and a *predicate* (a verb).

If we meet these basic requirements, we get short simple sentences:

- **Jacob** *cried*.
- **Susan** *laughed*.
- **Betsy** *jumped*.

Simple sentences can also be long and contain phrases that expand the sentence. Remember that phrases lack the subject-verb combination that clauses have. Each example has one **subject** and one *predicate*.

- The **dish and spoon** *ran* away.
- The **dish** did not *want* to go too far.
- The little **dog** *laughed* to see such sport.
- The fancy, silver **spoon** *was* happy to be along for the ride.
- The **butcher and the baker** *walked* into the hanging beam above the doorway.
- **He** *loved* swimming out over the waves into the great expanse of the ocean and feeling so very small.