

# What Makes a Sentence a Sentence?

The Five Parts



# Capital Letter

- The first word of a complete sentence must start with a capital letter. Even if a sentence has the other four requirements (and we'll get to those in a minute,) it still will not be a complete sentence without a capital letter at the very beginning.

# Subject

- The subject of a complete sentence is who or what the sentence is about. The subject performs the action, if there is any, in a sentence.
- The subject is always a **Noun** or a **Pronoun**.
- Traditionally, although not always, the subject is the Noun or Pronoun closest to the beginning of the sentence.

# Examples of Sentence Fragments or Incomplete Sentences (missing subjects)

- Went to the store.
- Drove very quickly.
- Fell under the tree.

# Predicate

- The predicate is the action or what is going on in the sentence.
- It is always a **Verb**.
- It is always the main action of a sentence.
  - Keep in mind: Linking verbs are not the sort of verb that makes up the predicate. For a list of linking verbs, click here: <http://www.examples-help.org.uk/parts-of-speech/linking-verbs.htm>

# Sentence Fragments and Incomplete Sentences can lack predicates

- I gave him.
- She received the entire.
- Live like crazy.

# Terminal Punctuation

- A complete sentence is not complete without end of sentence punctuation, which can be one of the following:
  - Period
  - Question Mark
  - Exclamation Point

# The Importance of Complete Sentences

- Writing and using complete sentences is important for earning good grades, expressing ideas properly, and communicating clearly.