

Simple and Complete Predicates

- 10e.** The *simple predicate*, or *verb*, is the main word or word group that tells something about the subject.

The simple predicate is part of the *complete predicate*, which consists of a verb and all the words that describe the verb and complete its meaning.

SENTENCE The party for my grandparents' fiftieth anniversary ended with a grand display of fireworks.

COMPLETE PREDICATE ended with a grand display of fireworks

SIMPLE PREDICATE ended

EXERCISE In each of the following sentences, underline the complete predicate and circle the simple predicate.

Example 1. The musician played a twelve-string guitar.

- The guitarist put new strings on her guitar.
- The new strings sounded much better.
- She tuned her guitar several times.
- The guitarist played the first string with the help of a pitch pipe.
- She then tuned all the strings to the first string.
- Well-tuned strings are important to the musician.
- The guitarist has a good ear for pitch.
- She tried several chords on her guitar.
- Then she made some adjustments to the tuning.
- The new strings stretched a bit.
- Some strings are lighter than others.
- Do many guitarists prefer the lightest strings?
- Sometimes the guitarist uses a thumb pick.
- She plays the low notes with the thumb pick.
- The guitarist often sings her own lyrics with the chords.
- She uses a capo for some songs.
- Capos change the pitch of the strings.
- Capos fit around the neck of the guitar.
- With a capo, the musician plays in a different key.
- Have you ever played a guitar?