

THE SENTENCE

When we speak or write we use words. We generally use these words in groups; as,

Little Jack Homer sat in a corner.

A group of words like this, which makes complete sense, is called a Sentence.

Kinds of Sentences

Sentences are of four kinds:

- (1) Those which make statements or assertions; as, Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall.
- (2) Those which ask questions; as Where do you live?
- (3) Those which express commands, requests, or entreaties; as, Be quiet. Have mercy upon us.
- (4) Those which express strong feelings; as, How cold the night is! What a shame!

A sentence that makes a statement or assertion is called a ***Declarative or Assertive sentence.***

A sentence that asks a question is called an ***Interrogative sentence.***

A sentence that expresses a command or an entreaty is called an ***Imperative sentence.***

A sentence that expresses strong feeling is called an ***Exclamatory sentence.***

SUBJECT AND PREDICATE

When we make a sentence: (1) *We name some person or thing; and (2) Say something about that person or thing.*

In other words, we must have a subject to speak about and we must say or predicate something about that subject.

Hence every sentence has two parts:

(1) The part which names the person or thing we are speaking about. This is called the Subject of the sentence.

(2) The part which tells something about the Subject. This is called the Predicate of the sentence.

The Subject of a sentence usually comes first, but occasionally it is put after the Predicate; as,
Here comes the bus.

Sweet are the uses of adversity.

In Imperative sentences the Subject is left out; as, Sit down. [Here the Subject You is understood]. Thank him. [Here too the Subject You is understood.]

Exercise

In the following sentences separate the Subject and the Predicate:

1. The cackling of geese saved Rome.
2. The boy stood on the burning deck.
3. Tubal Cain was a man of might.
4. Stone walls do not make a prison.
5. The singing of the birds delights us.