

Introduction

In the previous unit, we covered subject-verb-complement sentences. This unit focuses on simple sentences. A simple sentence is a sentence that contains the most basic elements of a sentence, namely a subject, verb and a complete thought. A simple sentence has only one independent clause, but no dependent clause. For example, *Megan ate her food*. This unit will show you how to identify and use the different elements contained in a sentence.

At the end of the unit, you will be able to:

- Define a simple sentence
- Identify simple sentences.
- Write simple sentences correctly.

Learning Content

A simple sentence contains basic elements within a sentence. The elements are a subject, a verb and a complete thought. Simple sentences have one independent clause, but no dependent clause. This means they do not have a second part. The following are examples of simple sentences:

1. *Megan ate her food.*

“Megan” = subject, “ate” = verb

2. *The lecturer was late for class.*

“The lecturer”= subject, “was”= verb

A simple sentence is not always a short like the examples given above. Some simple sentences have compound subjects and compound predicates.

Here is an example of a compound subject:

1. *Zikhona likes reading.*

This simple sentence has one subject, “Zikhona”.

2. *Zikhona and Margret like reading.*

This is a simple sentence with a compound subject, “Zikhona and Margret”.

Here is an example of a compound predicate:

1. *Zikhona likes reading.*

This simple sentence has one predicate, “likes”.

2. *Zikhona likes reading but hates watching movies.*

This is a simple sentence with a compound predicate, “likes” and “hate”.

Watch the following video for more information:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqtURYQKknc>

Summary

In this unit, you learned about simple sentences. A simple sentence is made of one independent clause only. Simple sentences do not have dependent clauses. However, simple sentences can have a compound subject and a compound predicate. A simple sentence consists of:

- a subject,
- a verb, and
- a complete thought.

The next unit focuses on compound sentences and linking words.