**THE SIMPLE SENTENCE**

A SIMPLE SENTENCE contains a subject and a verb and expresses a complete thought; it might contain other components as well, but only requires a subject and verb to be a complete sentence.

Fish **swim**.

**1. SUBJECT:** The subject names who or what the sentence is about. SIMPLE SUBJECTS identify only one noun or pronoun.

Fish **swim**.

COMPOUND SUBJECTS contain two or more simple subjects joined with a coordinating conjunction such as **and** or **or**.

Fish and turtles **swim**.

IMPLIED SUBJECTS: In imperative (advice or command) sentences, the subject is an understood **you**, though it may not appear in the sentence.

[You] **Eat** some fish.

GERUNDS AS SUBJECTS: A gerund is the –ing form of a verb that behaves as a noun.

Fishing is frightening in the Black Lagoon.

**2. VERB:** A verb expresses an action or state of being.

Fish **swim**.

verb (what the subject does, an action)

Fish **are** feisty.

verb (a state of being)

As with subjects, verbs can be compound, too.

Fish **swim** and **eat**.

verb verb
3. **DIRECT OBJECT:** A direct object completes the meaning of the verb. A simple direct object, usually a noun or pronoun, answers “what” or “whom” after the verb.

   The fish gave kisses.
   
   The fish gave what? The fish gave kisses.

4. **INDIRECT OBJECT:** The indirect object of the verb comes before the direct object and usually tells to whom or for whom the action of the verb is done.

   The fish gave their offspring kisses.
   
   The fish gave kisses to whom? The fish gave kisses to their offspring.

5. **COMPLEMENT:** While direct and indirect objects occur with action verbs, complements occur with linking verbs that express a state of being.

   Those fish are gangsters.
   
   Gangster fish are dangerous.
   
   Their plan smells fishy.

6. **PHRASES** are word groups that function as adjectives, adverbs, or nouns. They can’t stand alone because they don’t contain both a subject and active verb. Below are some examples:

   Fish swim in the Missouri River.
   
   Fish, our new pets, swim in the Missouri River.
   
   To fish is fun.
   
   An infinitive phrase consists of to followed by a verb (to fish). This infinitive is a noun, the subject of the sentence.