

Structuring the World: Identifying Complete Subjects and Complete Predicates in Minecraft Sentences

Materials and Prep

- Paper or Digital Document (for writing/typing)
- Pencil/Pen
- Reference sheet or notes from the previous lesson on Parts of Speech (Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives)
- (Optional) Access to Minecraft environment for inspiration

Learning Objectives (Building the Structure)

Building on our ability to identify the individual building blocks (parts of speech), this lesson focuses on how those blocks form the core structural units of a complete sentence.

1. Review the definitions and functions of the core parts of speech (Nouns and Verbs).
2. Define and accurately identify the **Complete Subject** of a sentence (Who or what is performing the action, including all modifiers).
3. Define and accurately identify the **Complete Predicate** of a sentence (The action being performed, including all verbs, objects, adjectives, and adverbs).
4. Construct well-formed sentences related to Minecraft that contain both a Complete Subject and a Complete Predicate.

Lesson Structure: From Blocks to Foundation

Phase 1: Review and Reinforcement (Review Previous Lesson)

Activity: Parts of Speech Quick Check (5 minutes)

Educator (I Do/We Do): Let's look at a sentence we created last time: "*The fierce, hungry skeleton quickly fired an arrow.*"

1. Ask learners to identify the main **Noun(s)** (the things/characters). (Skeleton, arrow)
2. Ask learners to identify the main **Verb(s)** (the action). (Fired)
3. Ask learners to identify the **Adjective(s)** (the words describing the nouns). (Fierce, hungry)

Bridge Language: "Now that we have identified the essential building blocks—the Noun that acts and the Verb that describes the action—we need to see how they work together to form the essential foundation of the sentence."

Phase 2: Introduction and Modeling (Introducing New Concepts)

Concept: The Subject/Predicate Foundation

Analogy: In Minecraft, before you build a house, you need a clear foundation. Every complete sentence needs two main structural parts: the foundation (the Subject) and the structure/action (the Predicate).

- **The Complete Subject:** This is the WHO or WHAT the sentence is about. It always includes the main Noun and any words that describe or modify that Noun (like Adjectives or Articles).
- **The Complete Predicate:** This tells WHAT the subject is doing or what is happening to it. It always includes the main Verb and everything that relates to that action (like Adverbs, objects, and prepositional phrases).

I Do (Educator Modeling)

We will break down this sentence:

The tiny, floating Ghast cried sadly through the Nether.

1. **Identify the 'Who/What' (Subject):** Who is the sentence about? *The tiny, floating Ghast.* (This is the Complete Subject. It includes the noun 'Ghast' and the adjectives 'tiny, floating').
2. **Identify the 'What it Did' (Predicate):** What did the Ghast do? *cried sadly through the Nether.* (This is the Complete Predicate. It includes the verb 'cried' and the adverb 'sadly').

Phase 3: Guided Practice and Application (Content & Practice)

We Do (Collaborative Practice: Sentence Sorting)

Activity: Split the Crafting Table

Present the following Minecraft sentences. Learners work together to draw a line (or use a different color highlighter) to physically separate the Complete Subject from the Complete Predicate.

1. The experienced builder placed a valuable diamond block.
2. Carefully, the Creeper tiptoed toward the wooden shack.
3. My loyal dog happily fought off the approaching spider.
4. Lava flowed quickly down the steep mountain side.

Sentence Segment	Complete Subject	Complete Predicate
Example 1	The experienced builder	placed a valuable diamond block.
Example 2	Carefully, the Creeper	tiptoed toward the wooden shack.

You Do (Independent Practice: Block Builders)

Activity: Building Sentences with Subject/Predicate Pairs

Instruct learners to perform two tasks:

Task A: Identify (Formative Assessment)

Write two new sentences about Minecraft (must be at least 8 words long). Then, label the Complete Subject (S) and the Complete Predicate (P).

Task B: Create (Application)

Use the knowledge of parts of speech from the previous lesson to build the most detailed Subject and Predicate possible. Write one sentence where the Subject has at least three descriptive words (Adjectives) and the Predicate has at least one Adverb.

- Example Subject: *The small, hungry, and determined player...*
- Example Predicate: *...worked tirelessly all night.*

Phase 4: Conclusion and Cumulative Understanding

Closure and Recap

Educator: "We started by learning the individual blocks (parts of speech), and today we learned how to put those blocks together to form the critical foundation of a strong structure—the Complete Subject and Complete Predicate."

Q&A:

- What essential part of speech must always be in the Complete Subject? (A main Noun.)
- What essential part of speech must always be in the Complete Predicate? (A main Verb/Action.)
- How did the adjectives we learned last time help us today? (They made our Complete Subjects more detailed.)

Success Criteria Check: Can you accurately draw a line between the performer of the action (Subject) and the action itself (Predicate) in a complex sentence?

Differentiation and Assessment

Differentiation

- **Scaffolding (Struggling Learners):** Provide a list of simple nouns and verbs from Minecraft. Have the learner focus only on the Simple Subject and Simple Predicate first (the core noun and core verb), and then add modifiers. Use color-coding (e.g., green for Subject, blue for Predicate).
- **Extension (Advanced Learners):** Introduce Compound Subjects (Steve and Alex went mining) or Compound Predicates (The zombie groaned and slowly chased the villager). Challenge them to identify how the Subject/Predicate line shifts when conjunctions ('and,' 'or') are used to join structures.
- **Context Flexibility:** For classroom training, use whiteboards for quick collaborative sorting. For homeschool, use sticky notes to cover and reveal the two sentence parts.

Assessment

- **Formative Assessment:** Review Task A (Identification) during the "You Do" section. Check that the Subject includes all modifiers related to the main noun, and the Predicate includes all action words and related modifiers/objects.
- **Summative Assessment:** Evaluate Task B (Creation). Success is demonstrated when the learner constructs a complete, grammatically sound sentence where the Subject and Predicate are detailed using the parts of speech (adjectives, adverbs) correctly identified in the previous lesson.

Next Lesson Preview

The next lesson will build on Subjects and Predicates by exploring sentence types (Declarative, Interrogative, Exclamatory, Imperative) and punctuation, ensuring we know how to use our strong sentence structure for different communication purposes in the game world.