

1. Time flies swiftly.
2. A rolling stone gathers no moss.
3. The breaking waves dashed high.

The part of a sentence that shows what is spoken of is called the **subject**.

The part of a sentence that tells something about the thing spoken of is called the **predicate**.

To find the subject and the predicate, answer the questions: (1) What is this sentence about? (2) What is said or asked about it?

The subject and the predicate may each be expressed by a single word, or by several words; as, —

Bells | ring.

A merciful man | considers his beast.

The subject of a declarative sentence is usually placed before the predicate; as, —

The well-curb had a Chinese roof.

But sometimes, especially in poetry, the subject is placed after the predicate; as, —

Up springs *the lark*.

Sweet is *the breath of morn*.

EXERCISE I.

Name the subject and the predicate in each of the following sentences: —

1. The whole island was covered with wood.
2. The first spring wild-flowers yield no honey.
3. The old oaken bucket hangs in the well.