

action of the verb is complete at the present time, as, I have written. Do has several uses, as, (a) in negative sentences, I do not write; (b) in interrogative sentences, Do you hear me?

THE SIMPLE SENTENCE

3. In every sentence we must have two parts: the **subject**, or *thing spoken about*; and the **predicate**, or *what is said about the subject*. We get a sentence as soon as a *noun or pronoun* and a *verb* are put together as subject and predicate.

Examine the *subjects* and *predicates* in the following sentences :—

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|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. John laughs. | 4. The wicked are punished. |
| 2. We saw the comet. | 5. Talking is forbidden. |
| 3. This looks nice. | 6. To steal is a mistake. |

We see that the subject may be : (1) a noun ; (2) a personal pronoun ; (3) a demonstrative pronoun ; (4) an adjective used as a noun ; (5) and (6) some part of a verb (gerund, verbal noun or an infinitive) which does naming work.

The predicate may be : (1) an intransitive verb ; (2) a transitive verb + an object ; (3) a copulative verb + a predicate adjective ; (4) and (5) a transitive verb in the passive voice ; (6) a copulative verb + predicate noun.

The subject and predicate may be joined together so as to make the sentence—

(1) A statement, as, *We love the flag.*

This is a **Declarative** sentence.

(2) A question, as, *Has the clock struck?*

This is an **Interrogative** sentence.