

# Lesson 4: Simple Predicates

## LEARN

- The **simple predicate** is the most important word in the complete predicate. The simple predicate tells exactly what the subject *does* or *is*.
- Sometimes the predicate of a sentence is just one word. Then the simple predicate and the complete predicate are the same. Most of the time, however, the simple predicate is part of the complete predicate.

In the chart below, the simple predicates are shown in **boldface**.



Complete Subject	Complete Predicate
Everyone	<b>read.</b>
All of us	<b>searched</b> for information.
Our class	<b>planned</b> a trip to Ellis Island.
Ellis Island	<b>is</b> in New York City.
We	<b>rode</b> a ferry to the island.
Many tourists	<b>visit</b> the immigration museum.

## PRACTICE

**A** The complete predicate in each sentence is in **boldface**. Circle the simple predicate in the complete predicate. Write it on the line.

1. This small island **is** in New York Harbor.

is

2. Samuel Ellis **owned** the island at one time.

owned

3. The federal government **built** a fort there in 1811.

built

4. The fort **became** an immigrant center in 1892.

became

5. Immigrants **went** there for inspections.

went

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| 6. The government <u>used</u> the center for 62 years.       | used     |
| 7. Ellis Island <u>closed</u> officially in November 1954.   | closed   |
| 8. A new project <u>began</u> in 1984.                       | began    |
| 9. The Island <u>reopened</u> as a museum.                   | reopened |
| 10. Over a million people <u>visit</u> the museum each year. | visit    |

**B** *Underline the complete predicate in each sentence. Then circle the simple predicate, and write it on the line.*

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Huge numbers of immigrants <u>came</u> to New York City.       | came      |
| 2. About eight million <u>entered</u> the city from 1855 to 1890. | entered   |
| 3. Many groups <u>arrived</u> at Ellis Island.                    | arrived   |
| 4. Most people <u>left</u> poor conditions back home.             | left      |
| 5. The newcomers <u>wanted</u> better lives in America.           | wanted    |
| 6. Some immigrants <u>brought</u> family members with them.       | brought   |
| 7. Others <u>traveled</u> by themselves.                          | traveled  |
| 8. Many immigrants <u>crossed</u> the ocean by steamship.         | crossed   |
| 9. The ships <u>docked</u> at the piers.                          | docked    |
| 10. Doctors <u>examined</u> the immigrants for illnesses.         | examined  |
| 11. Inspectors <u>requested</u> the proper papers.                | requested |
| 12. Some passengers <u>got</u> special treatment.                 | got       |
| 13. Officials <u>checked</u> them aboard the ships.               | checked   |
| 14. The inspections <u>lasted</u> for hours.                      | lasted    |
| 15. Most immigrants <u>passed</u> inspection.                     | passed    |

asked us lots of questions  
showed us our new home  
cried with happiness  
was over at last  
carried us to my uncle's apartment  
held her torch high above us  
took us to Ellis Island



Dear Diary,

Today our ship steamed into New York Harbor. The beautiful Statue of Liberty **held** her torch high above us.

My mother and I **cried** with happiness. Our long voyage **was** over at last!

A small ferry **took** us to Ellis Island. There the officials **asked** us lots of questions. Finally, we were free to go.

An underground train **carried** us to my uncle's apartment. He **showed** us our new home. Our new life in America is beginning at last!



## WRITE



Additional Resources at  
[SadlierConnect.com](http://SadlierConnect.com)

Sometimes two related sentences have the same subject.

Mom studied history.

Mom shared what she knew.

When this happens you can combine the predicates and form one sentence. Use the word *and* to join the predicates.

Combining the sentences in this way will make your writing smoother.

Mom studied history **and** shared what she knew.

**D** Each pair of sentences below has the same subject. Combine the sentences by joining the predicates.

1. The United States changed. The United States grew. \_\_\_\_\_

The United States changed **and** grew.

2. Millions of immigrants left Europe. Millions of immigrants came here. \_\_\_\_\_

Millions of immigrants left Europe **and** came here.

3. A father often came first. A father sent for his family later. \_\_\_\_\_

A father often came first **and** sent for his family later.

4. The immigrants usually lived in big cities. The immigrants worked in jobs there. \_\_\_\_\_

The immigrants usually lived in big cities **and** worked in jobs there.

5. New York City had the most immigrants. New York City became the largest city. \_\_\_\_\_

New York City had the most immigrants **and** became the largest city.



Go back to the sentences you wrote.  
Underline the predicates you combined.  
Circle the word that joins them.