PARTS OF A SENTENCE

Here are seven sentences

A	B
Chief Fadaka	had a beautiful garden.
I	can do these exercises.
The poor woodcutter	lost his axe.
This book	belongs to me.
The boy	laughed.
The little boy, with a smile on his face	ran down the street.
The workman	is unhappy.

You will notice that each sentence is divided into two parts by a space and the parts are marked A and B.

The Subject

Part A (Chief Fadaka, I, The poor woodcutter, etc.) contains the person or thing we are talking about in the sentence. We call this the *subject* of the sentence.

The word or group of words that we speak about in a sentence is called the Subject.

The Predicate

Part B (had a beautiful garden, can do these exercises, lost his axe, etc.) is what we say about the subject. We call that part of the sentence, *the predicate*. The subject 'is' or 'does' something. The predicate tells us what the subject 'is' or 'does'. The predicate can be one word, or it can be several words.

The Predicate of a sentence is the word or group of words that tells us something about the subject.

You will notice perhaps that there is generally a noun or a pronoun in the subject (Chief Fadaka, I, The poor woodcutter, etc.). There is always a verb in the predicate (had, can, lost, etc.). In fact, an easy way to find the subject of a sentence is first of all to pick out the verb and ask it, “who?” or “What?” For example:

The little boy ran down the street.

The verb ran, “Who ran?” Answer: “The little boy.” Then ‘the little boy’ is the subject of the sentence.