Basic Sentence Elements

**Subject:** The subject is a noun or pronoun that performs the main action in the sentence.

_I jogged to the park._

Compound Subject: When more than one subject performs the action.

_John and Teresa jogged to the park._

Every sentence must have a subject unless it is a command, and the subject (You) is understood.

_Close the door._

(Because this statement is a command, the subject is understood to be “you” – the person spoken to.)

**Predicate:** The main verb in the sentence is the predicate. It names the action of the sentence.

_They live in the same house._

The helping verb in sentences creates verb tense (when the action took place)

_He is going to the store._
_He has gone to the grocery store._
_He will go to the store._

**Direct Object:** A noun or pronoun that directly receives the action of a verb is called a direct object.

_I gave some cake to Sara._

(“Cake” is the object given; therefore, it is the direct object of the action.)

**Indirect Object:** A noun or pronoun that states to whom (or to what) or for whom (or for what) something is done.

_I gave Sara some cake._

(“Sara” receives the object “cake”; therefore, she is the indirect object of the action.)