

# Subjects and Predicates

**1b.** A **subject** tells *whom* or *what* the sentence is about.

To find the subject, ask *who* or *what* is doing something or *about whom* or *what* something is being said.

**1d.** The **predicate** of a sentence tells something about the subject.

In the following examples, the subjects are underlined once and the predicates are underlined twice.

**EXAMPLES** The construction of the White House began in 1792.

Not until 1800 did the presidential residence have its first occupants.

**EXERCISE A** Identify the underlined part or parts of each of the following sentences as the subject or the predicate. On the line provided, write *S* for *subject* or *P* for *predicate*.

**Example** P 1. Has the White House been the home of every United States president except George Washington?

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The White House was originally called the President's House.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Later, it was called the Executive Mansion.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The building's design was chosen after a contest in 1791.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The Irish American architect James Hoban won five hundred dollars for his design.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The original structure was built of white-gray sandstone.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. British forces attacked the capital in 1814 and burned the President's House.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. After the fire, painters whitewashed the new mansion.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Covering smoke stains were several coats of white paint.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. People commonly called the building the White House.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. During his presidency, Theodore Roosevelt authorized the popular name.

**EXERCISE B** Identify the underlined part or parts of each of the following sentences as the subject or the predicate. On the line provided, write *S* for *subject* or *P* for *predicate*.

**Example** P 1. One symbol of United States independence is the Liberty Bell.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. A picture of the Liberty Bell appears in our social studies textbook.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Does the Liberty Bell really weigh over two thousand pounds?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. The nation's flag also symbolizes independence.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. The flag's thirteen stripes stand for the nation's original thirteen colonies.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Can any of you explain the symbolic meaning of the flag's fifty stars?