**Core Parts of a Sentence**

There are two core parts of a sentence: the subject and the verb. Your ability to identify the subject and the verb in a sentence will facilitate your ability to write complete sentences (as opposed to [fragments](http://depts.dyc.edu/learningcenter/owl/fragments.htm)).

**Identifying the Subject**

The subject of a sentence refers to who or what is doing something.

HOT GRAMMAR TIP

To identify the subject of a sentence, ask yourself, "Who or what is doing the action?"

**Example #1**

***The president closed the college due to the heat.*** Reasoning: The subject of this sentence is "president" since it is the president who was doing something (closing the college).

**Example #2**

***The dog barked for a long time.*** Reasoning: The subject of the sentence is "dog" since it was the dog who was doing something (barking).

**Identifying the Verb (or Predicate)**

In most sentences, the verb is the word that indicates WHAT is being done or the action that is being taken.

HOT GRAMMAR TIP

To identify the verb in a sentence, ask yourself, "What is the action?" or "What is being done here?." In some sentences, though, the verb is a "state of being." The verb "to be" (am, are, is, was, were, etc.) in all its forms is an example of this.

**Example #1**

***The president closed the college due to the heat.*** Reasoning: The verb in this sentence is "closed" since that is what is being done and that was the action being taken.

**Example #2**

***The dog barked for a long time.*** Reasoning: The verb in this sentence is "barked" since this is what was being done and that was the action taken.

**Example #3**

***It is sunny today.*** Reasoning: There is no action here; however, the verb denotes a state of being or tells what is happening in the sentence with the word "is."

**Example #4**

***He was a good student.*** Reasoning: There is no action here; however, the verb denotes a state of being or tells what is happening in the sentence with the word "was."