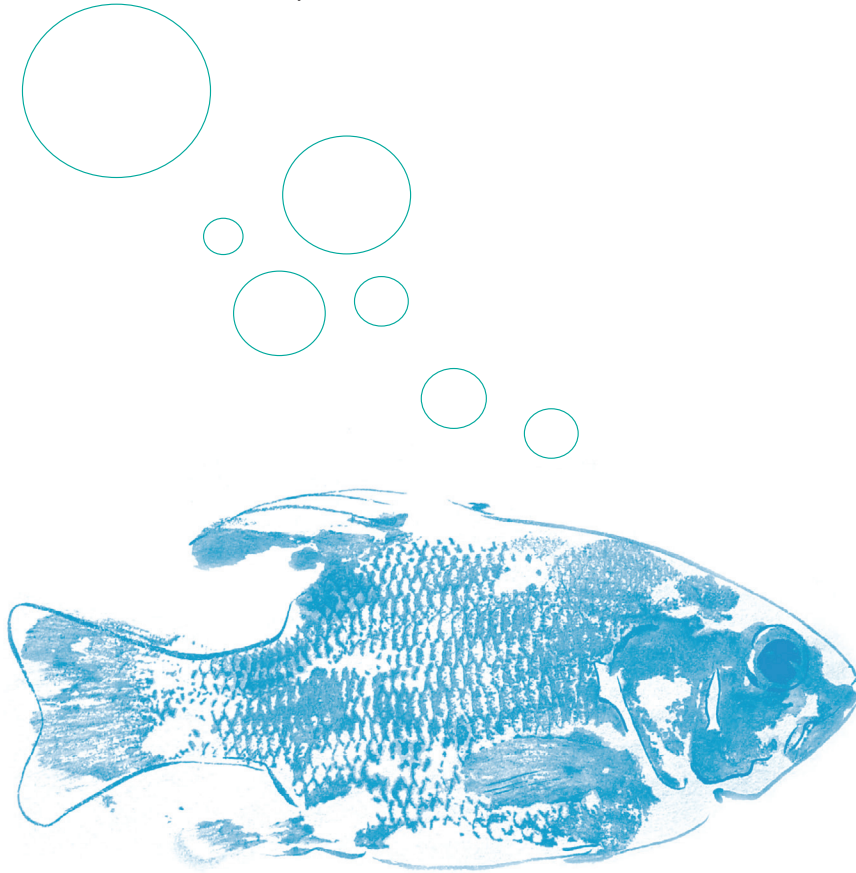


Royal Fireworks    Language Arts    by Michael Clay Thompson

# Grammar Island

Third Edition



Michael Clay Thompson

art by Milton N. Kemnitz

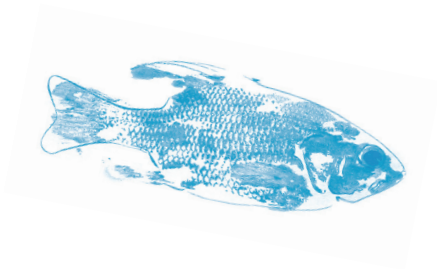
*Royal Fireworks Press*  
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There is a place  
called Grammar Island,  
made of words and dreams.  
There are fish and birds,  
and waves and wind,  
and beaches  
where kids can play.  
On Grammar Island  
you find wonderful things,  
such as birds and language.

On Grammar Island  
you learn that  
thinking about language  
is fun!

Language is talking and writing.  
It is how we make  
our ideas out of words!

It is important to be good  
at language because we use  
language for almost everything—  
even to say, “Let’s go for a swim!”  
So the better you are at language,  
the better you are at MANY THINGS!





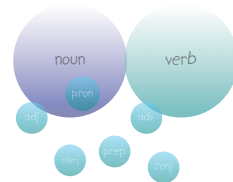
When we talk or write,  
that is language.  
When we think in words,  
like the word *splash*,  
that is language.

When we think  
about language,  
that is called  
GRAMMAR.

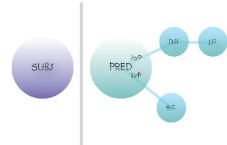
On Grammar Island,  
we think about language  
in FOUR great ways.

The four ways  
of thinking about language are called:

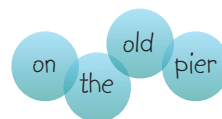
1. parts of speech



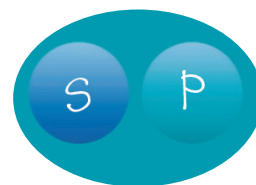
2. parts of the sentence



3. phrases



4. clauses



We will learn more about these soon,  
but here is a sneak preview:

1. parts of speech:  
the eight kinds of words
2. parts of the sentence:  
the parts of ideas
3. phrases:  
little groups of words
4. clauses:  
subject/predicate ideas

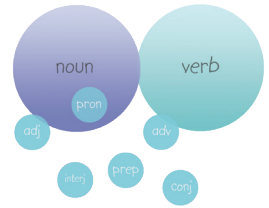


# Part One



The Parts of Speech  
(the eight kinds of words!)

KEMNITZ



Grammar lets us  
think about our  
words.

There are  
many words.

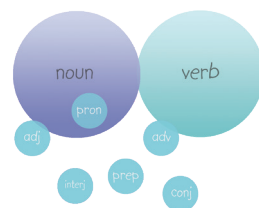
bug, blue, wave, smell, flower, yellow, beach, ocean, cloud,  
fish, ran, splash, duck, island, wow, boat, tide



But how many  
different **kinds**  
of words  
do you think  
there are  
for all the things  
on Grammar Island?

A **zillion**?

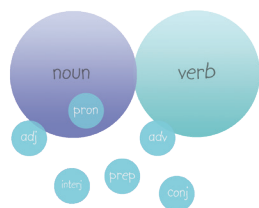




Guess what?  
There are only  
eight kinds of words!

Only eight!

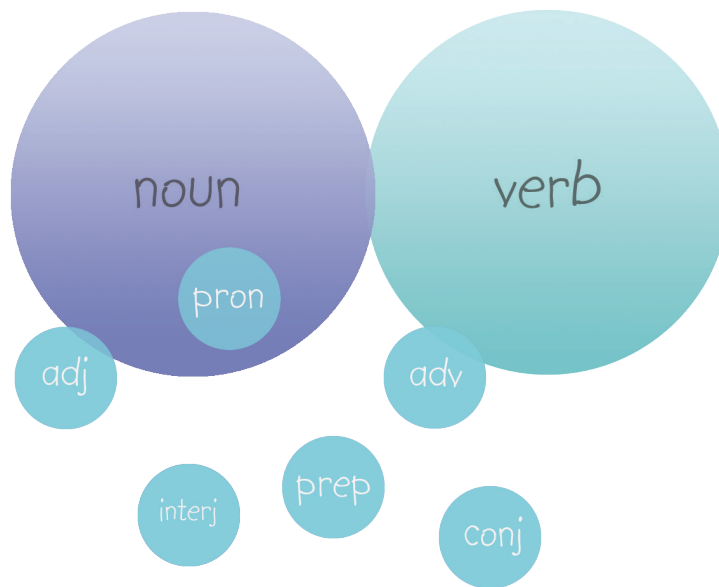




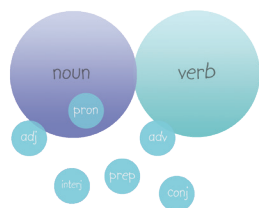
The eight kinds of words are called  
the  
Parts of Speech.

Our language is made of only  
eight kinds of parts!

Here are the names  
of the eight kinds of words:



noun, pronoun, adjective, verb, adverb,  
conjunction, preposition, interjection

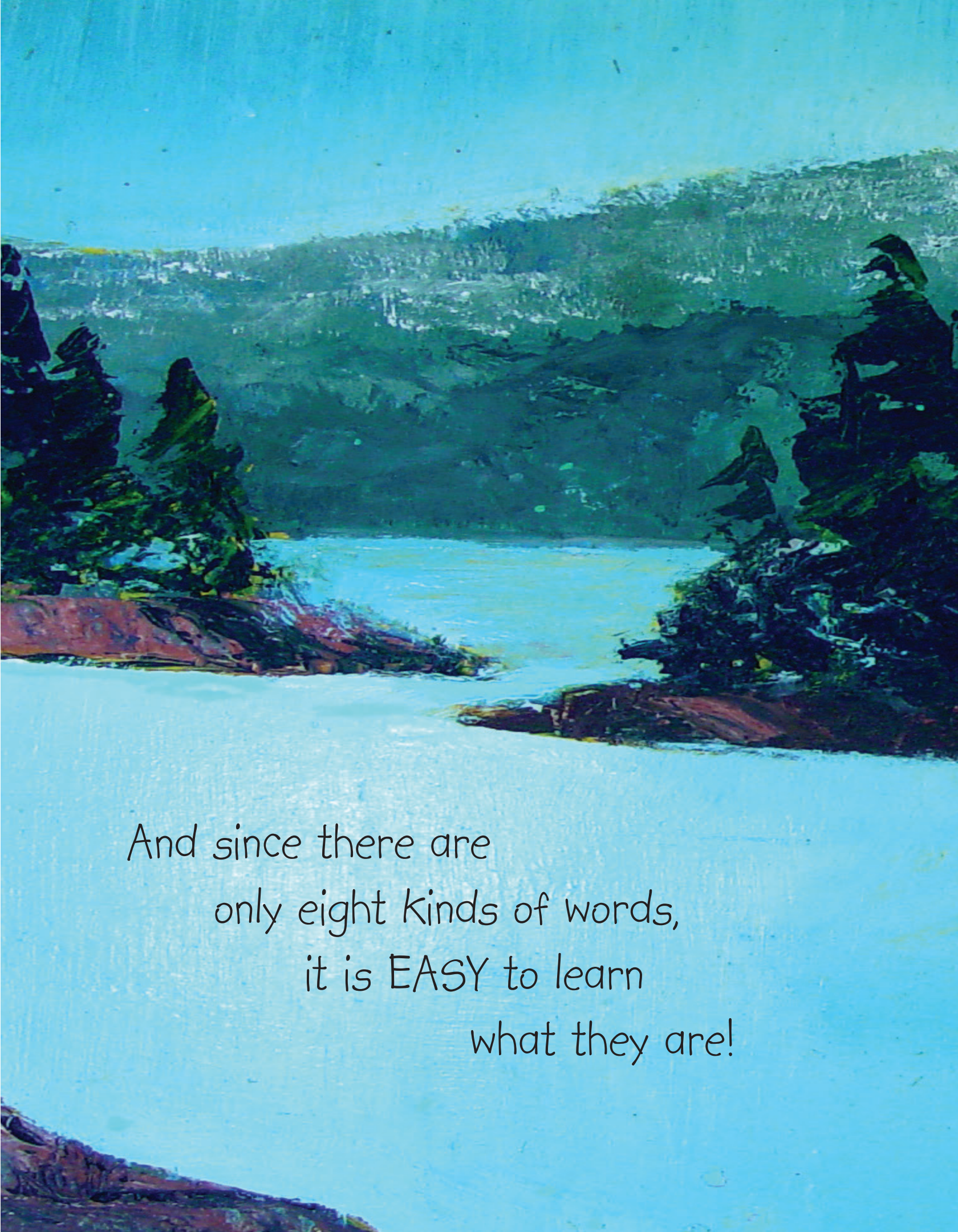


It is surprising  
that in a huge language,  
there are only eight  
kinds of words!

There are two main kinds of words,  
the **noun** and the **verb**,  
and six others.





A painting of a serene landscape. In the foreground, a calm body of water reflects the sky. The middle ground features a shoreline with several dark evergreen trees and rocky patches. In the background, a range of mountains with patches of snow or light-colored rock rises against a pale, hazy sky. The overall style is impressionistic, with visible brushstrokes and a soft color palette.

And since there are  
only eight kinds of words,  
it is EASY to learn  
what they are!





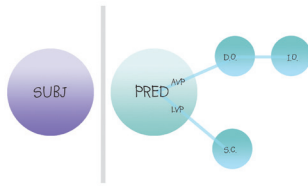
# Part Two

## The Parts of the Sentence

So there are eight kinds of words that we can use to make our ideas.  
The noun, pronoun, and adjective make what we are talking about,  
and the verb, adverb, conjunction, preposition,  
and interjection help say  
something about it.





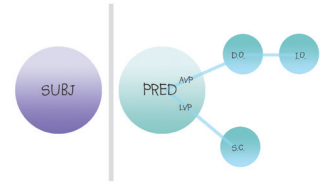


In grammar, this whole idea  
is called a SENTENCE.

Every sentence has TWO PARTS:

what it is about,  
called the SUBJECT,  
and

what we say about the subject,  
called the PREDICATE.

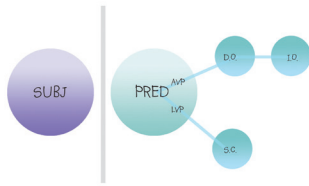


## SUBJECT

Bobby  
Angelena  
The coqui  
The gray kitten  
Pablo  
The Atlantic  
She

## PREDICATE

is a nice guy.  
is very smart.  
is a frog.  
mewed.  
painted the shed.  
is blue and deep.  
is an architect.



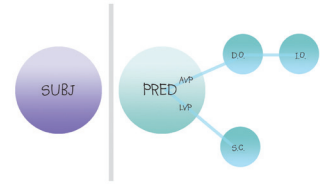
Notice that the verb is always in the predicate. We call the verb the **SIMPLE PREDICATE**.

The duck ate a nice fish.

The **COMPLETE PREDICATE** is the verb and all the adverbs and other words that go with it to say something about the subject.

When we say **PREDICATE**, we usually will mean just the verb, the simple predicate.





We now have TWO different ways to name things! As parts of speech, and as parts of sentence. If we say,

Bugs buzzed.

the word *bugs* is a noun, if we are talking about parts of speech, but this noun is also called a SUBJECT because it has a verb, *buzzed*, about it.

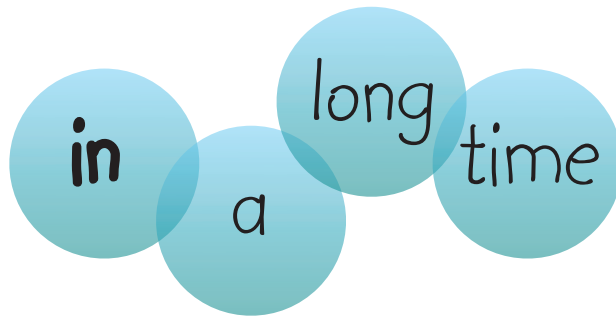




KEMNITZ

# Part Three Phrases





Remember when we studied prepositions, and we learned that a preposition is always the first word of a little word group called a **prepositional phrase**?

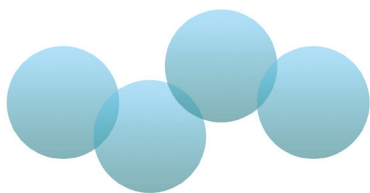
Now we  
can learn one  
more thing about  
prepositional phrases.

They **modify**!

Every prepositional  
phrase acts like

**a big adjective**  
**or a big adverb!**

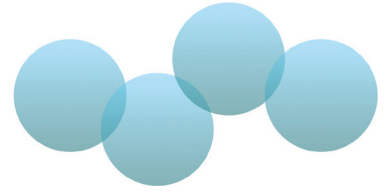




Remember that adjectives modify nouns or pronouns, and adverbs modify verbs? Well, a prepositional phrase can act like a big adjective to modify a noun, like the noun **rhinoceros**:

the **rhinoceros** on the beach

the **rhinoceros** in the mist



Or a prepositional phrase  
can act like a big adverb  
to modify a verb,  
like the verb **peeked**:

She **peeked** under the canoe.

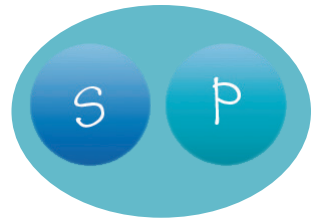
She **peeked** over the canoe.



An abstract painting featuring a dark, jagged, and textured rock formation or cliff face on the right side. The rock is rendered in deep blues, blacks, and dark greens with visible brushstrokes. The background is a bright, yellowish-green with horizontal bands of lighter and darker tones, suggesting a sky or water surface. The overall style is expressive and painterly.

# Part Four Clauses

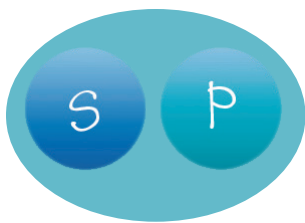




Do you remember that every sentence  
has TWO parts:  
the *subject* and the *predicate*?

Each group of words with a  
subject and predicate in it  
is called a *CLAUSE*.



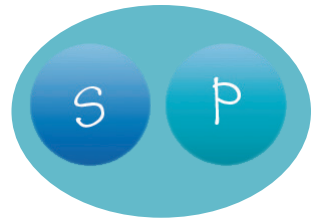


The rain came quickly.

is a clause because it has  
a subject, the noun **rain**,  
and a predicate, the verb **came**.

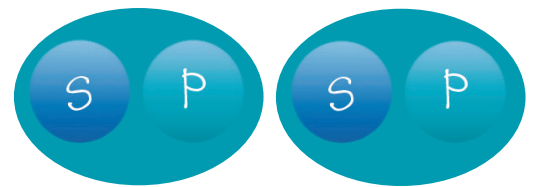
The adjective **the** and the adverb **quickly**  
are also part of this clause.

They go with their subject and predicate.



Sometimes we connect  
one subject and predicate  
to ANOTHER subject and predicate  
to make a big double sentence!

The rain came quickly,  
and  
the island grew green.



And each group of words  
with a subject and predicate in it  
is a CLAUSE.