



A Sour Experience

The **simple subject** names the person or the object the sentence is about, not including modifying words such as articles (a, an, the) or adjectives. The **simple predicate** tells what the subject is or what the subject does. It is a verb or a verb phrase minus any modifying words.

(simple subject) (simple predicate)
A happy kid munched on sour apples.

(simple subject) (simple predicate)
Mrs. Haggly is taking the apple trees away.

Read the story. Underline the simple subject and circle the simple predicate in each sentence.

The apple trees along Mrs. Haggly's driveway tempted us. From our own yard, we could smell the tartness in the crisp autumn air. Shiny green apples decorated the gnarled old trees. We strained our necks to see them better. Just the thought of biting into one of those apples made our mouths water uncontrollably.

Mrs. Haggly was our only problem. Everyone knew that she was dangerous. She had long wavy white hair and a crooked face. She bent over, using a cane for balance. Many people thought she might even be a witch.

One morning, we decided to make a run for the apples. Boy was that exciting! My brother ran first. I followed. Before we knew it, we had a handful of perfect, little, green apples. Back over the fence we went, quicker than ever! Exhausted and sweating beads of fear, we ate the green apples under the shade of our own tree. They were perfectly sour and delicious!

However, we paid the price for our adventure. Ohhh, did we ache! Our stomachs grew big like watermelons. We were sick all day. This story has a moral. Little green apples are sometimes wicked. Old ladies with canes are usually not.

