

Subject attributes

The subject may consist of one word or several words, but it must always have a noun in it. This noun which is the most important word in a sentence is often qualified by an adjective or the equivalent of an adjective which is called its attribute or enlargement.

Kinds of attributes

The attribute of a noun may be an adjective, an article, a pronoun, a participle, an infinitive or a phrase.

Study the following examples:

The baby smiled. (Here the attribute of the subject baby is the definite article the.)

Fresh milk is wholesome. (Here the attribute is the adjective 'fresh'.)

His voice shook. (Here the attribute is the possessive adjective his.)

Kennedy, President of America, was assassinated. (Here the attribute is a noun phrase used in apposition to the subject.)

He himself said this. (Here the attribute is an emphatic pronoun.)

A rolling stone gathers no moss. (Attribute - participle)

Birds of the same feather flock together. (Attribute - a prepositional phrase)

His will to live pulled him through the difficult times. (Attribute - an infinitive)