predicate

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English

Alternative forms
  - prædicate (archaic)

Etymology 1
From Middle French predicat (French prédicat), from post-classical Late Latin praedicatum (“thing said of a subject”), a noun use of the neuter past participle of praedicō (“I proclaim”), as Etymology 2, below.

Pronunciation
  - IPA(key): /ˈprɛdɪkət/
Noun

**predicate (plural predicates)**

1. *(grammar)* The part of the sentence (or clause) which states something about the subject or the object of the sentence.

   *In “The dog barked very loudly”, the subject is "the dog" and the predicate is "barked very loudly".*


   In the light of this observation, consider Number Agreement in a sentence like:

   (120) *They seem to me [S — to be fools/*a fool]*

   Here, the **Predicate** Nominal *fools* agrees with the italicised NP *they*, in spite of the fact that (as we argued earlier) the two are contained in different Clauses at S-structure. How can this be? Under the NP MOVEMENT analysis of *seem* structures, sentences like (120) pose no problem; if we suppose that *they* originates in the — position as the subordinate Clause Subject, then we can say that the **Predicate** Nominal agrees with the **underlying** Subject of its Clause. How does *they* get from its underlying position as subordinate Clause Subject to its superficial position as main Clause Subject? By NP MOVEMENT, of course!


   Thus, in (121) (a) *persuade* is clearly a **three-place Predicate** — that is, a **Predicate** which takes three Arguments: the first of these Arguments is the Subject NP *John*, the second is the Primary Object NP *Mary*, and the third is the Secondary Object S-bar [*that she should resign*]. By contrast, *believe* in (121) (b) is clearly a **two-place Predicate** (i.e. a **Predicate** which has two Arguments): its first Argument is the Subject NP *John*, and its second Argument is the Object S-bar [*that Mary was innocent*].

2. *(logic)* A term of a statement, where the statement may be true or false depending on whether the thing referred to by the values of the statement's variables has the property signified by that (predicative) term.

   *A nullary predicate is a proposition.*
   *A predicate is either valid, satisfiable, or unsatisfiable.*

3. *(computing)* An operator or function that returns either true or false.

**Translations**

*(grammar) part of sentence that states something about its subject*

- **Albanian**: kallëzues *(sq)*
- **Arabic**: ﺗَﺒَﺮَ ﻓُﺮْ (kabar)
- **Armenian**: ունհոծարձակ (hy) (storogyal)
- **Azerbaijani**: xəbər *(az)*
- **Belarusian**: выкăзник *(vokyznik)*, прэдыкăт *(predykăt)*
- **Kazakh**: баяндауыш *(bayandawış)*
- **Korean**: 숭어 *(ko)* *(sureo)*
- **Latin**: praedicātum *(la)*, attribūtum *(n)*
- **Latvian**: izteicējs *(m)*
- **Lithuanian**: tarinys *(m)*
- **Macedonian**: пр̀йрок *(m)* *(pr̀irok)*
Bulgarian: казуемо (bg) η (skazúemo)
Buryat: хэлэгшэ (xelegšē)
Chinese: 谓语 (zh), 谓语 (zh) (wēiyǔ), 述语 (zh), 述语 (zh) (shùyǔ)
Czech: přísudek (cs) η
Danish: prædikat η
Dutch: gegeide (nl) η, predicaat (nl) η
Esperanto: predikato (eo)
Estonian: õeldis (et)
Finnish: predikaatti (fi); predikaattiosa
French: prédicat (fr) η
Georgian: გათვალისწინები (şemasmenedi)
German: Prädikat (de) η, Satzaussage (de) f
Greek: κατηγόρημα (el) η (katigórima)
Hebrew: קתגורה (he) (he)
Hungarian: állitmány (hu)
Icelandic: umsögn (próf), umsagnarliður (m)
Ido: predikato (io) m
Interlingua: predicato
Irish: faínsnéis (í)
Japanese: 述語 (ja) (じゅつご, jutsugo)
Kalmyk: келгч (kelgç)
Maori: paparangi
Mongolian: өгүүлэхүүн (mn) (ögüulehüün)
Persian: مسند (fa) (masnad), گزاره (fa) (gozare)
Polish: orzeczenie (pl) η
Portuguese: predicado (pt) η
Romanian: predicat (ro) η
Russian: скажаемое (ru) η (skazújemoje), предикат (ru) m (predikát)
Serbo-Croatian: 
Cyrillic: предикат m, прирок m
Roman: predikát (sh) m, přírok (sh) m
Slovak: prísudok m
Slovene: povedek (sl) m
Southern Altai: айдынлаачы (aydîlääçı)
Spanish: predicado (es) m
Swedish: predikat (sv) η
Tagalog: panaguri (tl)
Tajik: мустанад (tg) (mustanad)
Turkish: yüklem (tr)
Ukrainian: присудок (uk) m (prysúdok), предикат (uk) m (predykat)
Uzbek: kesim (uz)
Vietnamese: thuộc tùr, vị ngữ (vi)

(logic) a term of a statement, where the statement may be true or false

Czech: predikát m
Dutch: predicaat (nl) η
Esperanto: predikato (eo)
Finnish: predikaatti (fi)
French: prédicat (fr) m
German: Prädikat (de) η
Greek: κατηγόρημα (el) η (katigórima)
Hebrew: קתגורה (he) m, קתגורה (he) (prédicat)
Icelandic: umsagnaröfn (próf)

Japanese: 述語 (ja) (じゅつご, jutsugo)
Persian: محمول (fa) (mamhol)
Polish: predykat (pl) m, funkcja zdaniowa f
Portuguese: predicado (pt) m
Romanian: predicat (ro) η
Russian: предикат (ru) η (predikát)
Serbo-Croatian: 

(computing) an operator or function that returns either true or false

Finnish: predikaattifunktio

Adjective

predicate (comparative more predicate, superlative most predicate)

1. (grammar) Of or related to the predicate of a sentence or clause.
2. Predicated, stated.
3. (law) Relating to or being any of a series of criminal acts upon which prosecution for racketeering may be predicated.

Translations

(grammar) of or related to the predicate of a sentence or clause

- Hungarian: állítmányi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>predicated, stated — see predicated, stated</th>
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</table>

(law) relating to or being any of a series of criminal acts upon which prosecution for racketeering may be predicated

Derived terms

- nominal predicative
- predicatable
- predicate calculus
- predicative adjective
- predicatively

Etymology 2

From Latin praedicātus, perfect passive participle of praedicō (“publish, declare, proclaim”), from prae + dicō (“proclaim, dedicate”), related to dīcō (“say, tell”).

Pronunciation

- IPA(key): /ˈprɛdɪˌkeɪt/

Verb

predicate (third-person singular simple present predicates, present participle predicating, simple past and past participle predicated)

1. (transitive) To announce, assert, or proclaim publicly.
2. (transitive) To assume or suppose; to infer.


  There was a character about Madame Defarge, from which one might have **predicated** that she did not often make mistakes against herself in any of the reckonings over which she presided.


  Of anyone else it would have been said that she was finding the afternoon rather dreary in the vast halls not of her forefathers: but of Miss Power it was unsafe to **predicate** so surely.

3. (transitive, originally US) to base (on); to assert on the grounds of.


  The law is what constitutes both desire and the lack on which it is **predicated**.

4. (transitive, grammar) To make a term (or expression) the predicate of a statement.

5. (transitive, logic) To assert or state as an attribute or quality of something.

- **1911**, *Encyclopedia Britannica*, Conceptualism

  This quality becomes real as a mental concept when it is **predicated** of all the objects possessing it (“quod de pluribus natum est praedicari”).

**Translations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>to announce or assert publicly</th>
<th>to suppose assume, infer</th>
<th>to base on, to assert on the grounds of</th>
<th>to make a term (or expression) the predicate of a statement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finnish: ilmoittaa (fi), vakuuttaa (fi)</td>
<td>Finnish: olettaa (fi)</td>
<td>Icelandic: byggja á, grundvalla á</td>
<td>Maori: whakapaparangi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romanian: (a) predica (ro)</td>
<td>Serbo-Croatian: predicirati, obznaniti (sh)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*logic*) to assert or state as an attribute or quality of something
Further reading

- predicate (http://www.onelook.com/?w=predicate&ls=a) at *OneLook Dictionary Search*

Anagrams

- 'preciated

Ido

Pronunciation

- **IPA** (/prediˈtsate/)

Verb

predicate

1. *adverbial present passive participle of* predicar

Italian

Verb

predicate

1. *second-person plural present indicative of* predicare
2. *second-person plural imperative of* predicare
3. *feminine plural past participle of* predicare

Anagrams

- decrepita, decrepità, deprecati


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