

Subject Complements

4d. A **subject complement** is a word or word group that completes the meaning of a linking verb and that identifies or describes the subject.

EXAMPLES The horse seemed exhausted. [The adjective *exhausted* completes the meaning of the linking verb *seemed* and describes the subject *horse*.]
Roberto became a teacher. [The noun *teacher* completes the meaning of the linking verb *became* and identifies the subject *Roberto*.]

EXERCISE A In the following sentences, circle the linking verb and underline the subject complement.

Example 1. Jeremiah is a friend of mine.

1. Joyce certainly seemed busy this afternoon.
2. Over the years, the song became an anthem for a generation.
3. The tall man at the back of the photograph is my grandfather.
4. Are the pies ready yet?
5. The bad weather in Minnesota this time of year is a good reason to stay home.
6. The cat seems friendly.
7. Jake is the winner of this week's prize.
8. Dr. Morbius appears happy about the results of his experiment.
9. Irene was the last person out of the pool.
10. Carey was the most improved player.

EXERCISE B In the blank in each of the following sentences, write a subject complement that will complete the meaning of the linking verb.

Example 1. Kyle felt excited after he heard the news.

11. Gail became a respected _____ after she graduated from college.
12. Michael appeared _____ as he played his guitar and sang for us.
13. The squirrel seemed _____ when we walked past it.
14. Does the soup taste too _____ to you?
15. We all thought that the movie was very _____.

Predicate Nominatives

4e. A **predicate nominative** is a word or word group that is in the predicate and that identifies the subject or refers to it.

EXAMPLES The protagonist of *The Call of the Wild* is a **dog** named Buck.
 Buck becomes a hard-working **sled dog** and a devoted **companion** of John Thornton.
 [compound predicate nominative]

EXERCISE In the following sentences, circle the linking verb and underline the predicate nominative. (Hint: Some sentences contain a compound predicate nominative.)

Example 1. The leader will be Maria.

1. My partner for biology lab is Penelope.
2. Jason will be the next student council president.
3. Mrs. Furillo's favorite song is still "Night and Day."
4. Rocky Marciano was the world heavyweight boxing champion from 1952 to 1956.
5. My coat is the red one.
6. Leon would have been my first choice for the part.
7. Michelle Kwan has become an inspiration to us all.
8. Is Sara the runner in the blue T-shirt?
9. I could have been a contender.
10. The winner of the spelling bee was Tracy.
11. The next speaker will be Mr. Gonzalez.
12. Who was the fourteenth president of the United States?
13. My favorite memory of the trip is our day at the Grand Canyon.
14. At the age of eighteen, my father became the first person in his family to go to college.
15. Were the stars of that movie Lauren Bacall and Humphrey Bogart?
16. The winner is Terry!
17. Did Sheila become an accountant?
18. Grace's preferences for lunch are sandwiches or soup.
19. The next contestant on the show is Mr. Hynes.
20. Ginger should have become an actress.

Predicate Adjectives

4f. A **predicate adjective** is an adjective that is in the predicate and that describes the subject.

EXAMPLES Those enchiladas look **delicious**.
The sauce is **spicy** and uncommonly **sweet**. [compound predicate adjective]

EXERCISE In each of the following sentences, circle each linking verb and underline all predicate adjectives.

Example 1. Was the new airplane smaller and faster than the older planes?

1. Our cat Conrad is small for his age.
2. The boiled potatoes tasted a little too bland for me.
3. Belinda sounded optimistic about the outcome of the student council election.
4. Parker looks very nice in that hat.
5. Sales of the new school calendar appear brisk.
6. The llama's fur felt soft to Marcia's touch.
7. The door to the basement is squeaky.
8. After his feeding, the baby remained quiet for the rest of the night.
9. The crowd at the championship game was energetic and enthusiastic.
10. Michael's new wool coat felt rough and scratchy against his skin.
11. Lance didn't become tired until the final lap of the race.
12. The maze can be frustrating and tiring.
13. The moon appeared big and bright in the evening sky.
14. The bittersweet comedy seemed both funny and sad.
15. The soup may be too hot to eat right now.
16. Have you ever been afraid of the dark?
17. The trail of the meteor appeared blue, green, and red.
18. Every day, Taylor grew more confident about riding her new unicycle.
19. Is your new dog brown and white?
20. Climbing the steep slope of the mountainside is really quite easy, despite its appearance.