

Predicate Nominatives and Predicate Adjectives A

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 Leonardo da Vinci was a great **artist**.
He was not only an **artist** but also an **inventor**. [compound predicate nominative]

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

EXAMPLES Leonardo da Vinci was highly **competent** in many fields.
How **talented** and **creative** this versatile man was! [compound predicate adjective]

EXERCISE A In the following sentences, circle the linking verb and underline each subject complement. Then, on the line provided, identify each subject complement as *PN* for *predicate nominative* or *PA* for *predicate adjective*.

Example PN 1. Was Enrico Caruso a famous tenor?

- _____ 1. The bag with the bowling ball in it felt heavy.
- _____ 2. Mrs. Kaufman is my favorite teacher.
- _____ 3. The dog seemed eager to see us.
- _____ 4. The best vegetable, in my opinion, is spinach.
- _____ 5. Our next-door neighbor is a teacher at the local high school and the coach of the football team.
- _____ 6. Even after a week, the cat remained aloof from the other pets in the house.
- _____ 7. That casserole certainly smells delicious!
- _____ 8. Isn't Sonya the lead singer for the band?
- _____ 9. Some Asian dishes are perhaps too hot and spicy for some people.
- _____ 10. Toni Morrison is the author of several novels, including *Beloved* and *Song of Solomon*.

EXERCISE B Each of the following sentences contains at least one subject complement. Underline each predicate nominative once and each predicate adjective twice.

Example 1. The test did not seem very difficult to us.

11. The Snapdragon is the fastest and most popular ride at the amusement park.
12. Does the pattern on this shirt seem faded to you?
13. The author Joseph Heller was a famous novelist.
14. Jorge's two favorite composers are Beethoven and Holst.
15. Will this energetic puppy ever become a calm pet?

Predicate Nominatives and Predicate Adjectives B

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

EXAMPLE Faith Ringgold is a talented **artist**.

A predicate nominative is never part of a prepositional phrase.

EXAMPLE That quilt is **one** of her creations. [*One*, not *creations*, is **the** predicate nominative. *Creations* is the object of the preposition *of*.]

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

EXAMPLE Faith Ringgold is extremely **talented**.

EXERCISE A In each of the following sentences, identify the underlined word or word group by writing above it *PN* for *predicate nominative*, *PA* for *predicate adjective*, or *OP* for *object of a preposition*.

Example 1. Ms. Juarez is my English ^{*PN*} teacher.

- Ms. Juarez is also an imaginative playwright.
- “A Dog’s Life” is one of her humorous one-act plays.
- In this play a man becomes a full-grown Labrador retriever.
- The man’s children seem pleased with their new pet.
- As the play unfolds, the dog’s behavior grows comically strange.

EXERCISE B In the following sentences, identify each predicate nominative or predicate adjective by writing above it *PN* for *predicate nominative* or *PA* for *predicate adjective*. (Hint: At least one sentence contains a compound predicate nominative or a compound predicate adjective.)

Example 1. Did Randy seem ^{*PA*} angry and ^{*PA*} frustrated to you?

- The dachshund is a highly intelligent breed of dog.
- Does the water in the swimming pool feel too cold to you?
- Broccoli is one of my favorite vegetables.
- The finalists in the eighth-grade geography bee are Kim Chun and she.
- The action in this movie may be too violent for some viewers.
- The photographer seemed quite pleased with his pictures.
- Una was certainly happy about the contest results.
- All of the scouts appeared tired and hungry after their long hike.
- My mother is a skilled carpenter.
- Is Rufino Tamayo the Mexican artist who painted *Homage to Juárez*?