Complements

13a. A complement is a word or word group that completes the meaning of a verb.

A complement may be a noun, a pronoun, or an adjective.

**NOUN**  I enjoy books of all types.

**PRONOUN**  I read them at every opportunity.

**ADJECTIVE**  This book is suspenseful.

**EXERCISE A**  Complete the meaning of each verb by adding a complement.

**Example 1.**  Yesterday I read **Watership Down**.

1. This poem is ____________________________________________.
2. I greatly admire __________________________________________.
3. I recently composed a ________________________________________.
4. I’ll give ____________________________________________ the books they wanted.
5. My skills as an author are ____________________________________.
6. In the ghost story, the weather was always ____________________________________.
7. The ancient ghost haunted the ____________________________________.
8. When I told you, did you believe ____________________________________?
9. A mystery story should be ________________________________________.
10. Tell ________________________________________ the rest of the story.

**EXERCISE B**  Underline the complements in each of the following sentences.

**Example 1.**  Do you smell smoke?

11. John built these shelves.
12. Russell grows basil in his garden.
13. Spooky is our new cat.
14. Is Spike your pet iguana?
15. These pecans are very crunchy.
17. Marcia has a new kitten.
18. Last summer we built a birdhouse.
19. Was Rafael happy about his new bicycle?
20. Suzi and Eric gave us a ride to the park.
Direct Objects

A direct object is a noun, pronoun, or word group that tells who or what receives the action of the verb.

**EXAMPLES**

Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone. [What did Bell invent?]

Mia took Brent and Lenice to the play. [Whom did Mia take?]

Because a linking verb does not express action, it cannot have a direct object.

**EXERCISE A** Underline the direct objects in the following sentences. Some sentences contain a compound direct object. If a sentence does not contain a direct object, write none on the line provided.

**Example**

1. Have you ever seen a cotton gin?

   1. In 1793, Eli Whitney invented a machine for cotton farmers.

   2. His machine was the cotton gin.

   3. The machine separates seeds and small sticks from the cotton fibers.

   4. It combs the fibers with tiny, fine-toothed rakes.

   5. Whitney’s invention was important to the economy of the South.

**EXERCISE B** Underline the direct objects in the following sentences. Some sentences contain compound direct objects.

**Example**

[1] Ms. Costa explained faults and earthquakes to my class.

[6] Thick plates of solid material form the earth’s crust, and sometimes these plates move.

Indirect Objects

An indirect object is a noun, pronoun, or word group that sometimes appears in sentences containing direct objects.

Indirect objects tell to whom or to what, or for whom or for what, the action of the verb is done.

**EXAMPLES**  
He fed the **dog** a biscuit. [To what did he feed the biscuit?]  
I gave **Jaime** and **Alameda** their tickets. [To whom did I give the tickets?]

**EXERCISE A**  
Each of the following sentences contains both a direct object and an indirect object. For each sentence, underline the direct object once. Then, underline the indirect object twice. Hint: Some sentences may contain a compound indirect object.

**Example 1.** I promised **Hortensia** and **Mary** two slices of cake.

1. The president gave the astronaut a medal.
2. The weather report promised us sunshine for the weekend.
3. After a long delay, the store sent Mr. Wong a refund.
4. Virgil and Mike sent Chim a birthday card.
5. María gave the carpenters and bricklayers clear directions.

**EXERCISE B**  
In each sentence, circle the verb. Then, underline the direct object once and the indirect object twice. Hint: Some sentences do not have indirect objects. Some sentences have no objects.

**Example 1.** I gave **Fido** and **Cheeky** a bath.

6. The governor gave her staff a party.
7. Carlos showed Delia pictures from his vacation.
8. The witness gave the jury additional information about the crime scene.
9. Shizuo has been my friend for years.
10. Felice threw the ball to me.
11. The scary movie gave us the shivers.
12. Melissa gave the waitress her order.
13. Please tell me a story, Arthur.
14. My friend Heather is the secretary of the Hiking Club.
15. Give the speaker your complete attention.
Direct Objects and Indirect Objects A

13b. A **direct object** is a noun, pronoun, or word group that tells who or what receives the action of the verb.

13c. An **indirect object** is a noun, pronoun, or word group that sometimes appears in sentences containing direct objects.

**DIRECT OBJECTS**

After sitting down, I studied my **program**.
I adore the **costumes** and **songs** in opera productions.

**INDIRECT OBJECTS**

Later, I lent **Melissa** my opera glasses.
She gave **Eddie** and **Carlos** a turn with the glasses, too.

**EXERCISE A**

Identify each underlined word by writing above it **DO** for direct object or **IO** for indirect object. Add **C** if the word is part of a compound object.

**Example 1.** Will you send **Grandma** and **Grandpa** these tickets, please?

1. Pierre gave **me** a ticket to the opera **Madama Butterfly**.
2. We took a **bus** to the opera house.
3. An usher showed Pierre and **me** our seats.
4. The orchestra began the **overture**.
5. The opera tells a sad and touching **story**.
6. A woman marries a **man** who is in the navy.
7. Soon after their marriage, the man sails his **ship** to faraway places.
8. He leaves the woman and her little **child**.
9. Sadly she watches the **sea**, hoping for his return.
10. The performers tell **us** the entire story through their beautiful songs.

**EXERCISE B**

In each of the sentences, circle the verb. Then, underline the direct object once and the indirect object twice. Some sentences do not contain indirect objects.

**Example 1.** Each afternoon after school, I **give** Willy **food** and **water**.

11. My neighbor across the hall has an interesting **pet**.
12. The Stoneham Zoo gave her a chinchilla whose name was Willy.
13. For years, the zoo featured the chinchilla in its Children’s **Zoo**.
14. When Willy grew old, the zoo needed a new home for him.
EXERCISE A

In each of the following sentences, underline each direct object once and each indirect object twice. Some sentences contain compound objects.

Example 1.

Before entering the room, Maya gave the guard her camera.

1. The museum does not allow cameras.
2. According to our guide, that diamond caused its owner some trouble.
3. She finally gave the museum the diamond and some other gems.
4. Did you see the rubies and the emeralds?
5. Color, brilliance, and weight determine a gem’s value.
6. A lapidary, or gem cutter, gives a gem its final shape.
7. This museum also has an exhibit and books about famous gems.
8. Indian and Persian rulers possessed the famous *Koh-i-noor* diamond for centuries.
9. The British East India Company gave Queen Victoria the *Koh-i-noor* in 1850.
10. Show the teacher and the class your postcards from the exhibit.

EXERCISE B

In each of the following sentences, underline the direct object. Then, on the lines provided, rewrite each sentence so that it has both a direct object and an indirect object.

Example 1.

Will you write a letter today? *Will you write your grandmother a letter today?*

11. Throw the football.

12. Lani will show her project tomorrow morning.

13. Mr. Garcia told a story about his childhood.

14. Please bring a glass of water.

15. Did she send a birthday card?
Subject Complements

A **subject complement** is a word or word group in the predicate that identifies or describes the subject.

A subject complement is connected to the subject by a linking verb.

**EXAMPLES**

1. The world’s oldest surviving religion is **Judaism**. (*Judaism* is a noun that identifies the subject *religion.*)
2. This prayer book looks **new**. (*New* is an adjective that describes the subject *book.*)

**Exercise**

Circle each verb, and underline each subject complement in the following sentences. Some sentences do not contain a subject complement.

**Examples**

1. Is Taoism a religion of the East?
2. I attend a Catholic church.

1. Jerusalem is the capital of Israel.
2. That beautiful Islamic mosque appears ancient.
3. I visited Vatican City in Rome once.
4. The church bells sounded pleasantly harmonious in the night air.
5. Many magnificent structures become tourist attractions.
6. The Eiffel Tower was an attraction at the World Exposition in 1889.
7. In ancient Greece the Parthenon honored the goddess Athena.
8. The Forbidden City in China became open to the public.
10. The Great Wall of China seems almost endless!
11. It stretches nearly 1,500 miles.
12. The North Pole is not a land mass.
13. In fact, the Arctic Ocean covers the North Pole.
14. The South Pole remains frozen year round.
15. Unlike the North Pole, the South Pole lies on an icy land mass.
16. The winds of Antarctica feel bitter.
17. The biggest lake in the world is the Caspian Sea.
18. The Caspian Sea is not an arm of the ocean.
19. However, the water tastes salty.
20. Lake Baikal is much deeper.
**Predicate Nominatives**

**Example 1.** A predicate nominative is a word or word group in the predicate that identifies the subject.

A predicate nominative may be a noun, a pronoun, or a word group that functions as a noun. A predicate nominative is connected to the subject by a linking verb.

**EXAMPLES**

- A tiger is a wild **animal**.
- The guilty people in the room were **he** and **she**.
- That is **what I wrote**.

**Exercise A**

Circle the linking verb in each of the following sentences. Then, underline the predicate nominative. Some predicate nominatives may be compound.

**Example 1.** Jacques Cousteau **has always been** one of my role models.

1. Jacques-Yves Cousteau was a French underwater explorer.
2. His main interests were ocean life and conservation.
3. The fish and plants of the sea were his topics of study.
4. Underwater exploration is sometimes a dangerous occupation.
5. Cousteau’s explorations have become the subjects of films and books.

**Exercise B**

In the sentences below, circle each verb. Then, identify each underlined word or word group by writing above it **PN** for predicate nominative or **DO** for direct object.

**Example 1.** My brother **may become** a doctor.

7. That story describes **him** exactly.
8. Tomás Ortega is the best **student** in our class.
9. A leopard has **spots** on its coat for camouflage.
10. A rake is a useful **tool** in a garden.
11. Billie Holiday is Kevin’s favorite jazz **singer**.
12. The class elected **Jennifer**.
13. She was probably the best **candidate**.
14. Her friend Martin managed the **campaign**.
15. That is **what she promised** before the election.
Predicate Adjectives

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

A predicate adjective is connected to the subject by a linking verb.

**Examples**

Yesterday I felt **sick**.

The cider was **cold** and **refreshing**.

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**EXERCISE A**

Circle the linking verbs in the following sentences, and underline the predicate adjectives. Some predicate adjectives are compound.

**Example**

1. Your dog **appears** tired or ill.

1. The ocean looks calm tonight.

2. The governor seemed happy with the meeting.

3. After roller-skating, the children were hungry and tired.

4. Traffic on my street becomes quite heavy during rush hour.

5. The committee’s plan is very complicated.

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**EXERCISE B**

Underline each predicate adjective or compound predicate adjective in the following sentences. If a sentence has no predicate adjective, write **None** on the line provided.

**Examples**

1. Reading is **fun** and **relaxing**.

2. **None**

6. Scott O’Dell is a fantastic writer.

7. His books have become famous.

8. **Island of the Blue Dolphins** is excellent in my opinion.

9. The main character is an American Indian girl.

10. Alone on a deserted island, she feels lonely and scared.

11. Fierce, wild dogs are inhabitants of the island, too.

12. They seem very frightening to her.

13. She then becomes intent on leaving the island in a canoe.

14. Her journey becomes dangerous when the canoe springs a leak.

15. She is a brave person but wisely turns back.
EXERCISE A  Identify each underlined word by writing above it **PN** for predicate nominative or **PA** for predicate adjective. Add **C** if it is part of a compound complement.

**Example 1.** My favorite movies are old and **musical**.

1. Fred Astaire was an actor and a dancer.
2. When he danced, he seemed very **light** on his feet.
3. Astaire’s first dancing partner was his sister **Adele**.
4. His solo dances were **sophisticated** and improvisational.
5. In many movies, Ginger Rogers was his dancing **partner**.
6. The movies they made together became very famous and **popular**.
7. My two favorites are **Top Hat** and **Swing Time**.
8. Astaire’s career was **long** and brilliant.
9. He became an actor in 1933 and continued to make films until 1981.
10. He was the **winner** of a special Academy Award, several Emmys, and two lifetime achievement awards.

**EXERCISE B** In each of the following sentences, underline each predicate nominative once and underline each predicate adjective twice.

**Example 1.** Adrienne seems especially **happy** and **excited** today.

11. The clouds on the horizon looked dark.
12. She is both a swimmer and a dancer.
13. Those pears are inexpensive and delicious.
14. My favorite sports are hockey and lacrosse.
15. Is the girl in the green parka your sister?
Predicate Nominatives and Predicate Adjectives B

**Exercise A** Identify each underlined word by writing above it PN for predicate nominative or PA for predicate adjective. Add C if it is part of a compound.

**Example 1.** Is this script comic or tragic?

1. Lawrence Kasdan’s writing is skillful and clever.
2. His works are not books, poems, or articles.
3. Many of Kasdan’s works become exciting films.
4. One of the first movies that he wrote was *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.
5. To many people, that movie seemed exciting and funny.
6. Harrison Ford was wonderful as the leading man, Indiana Jones.
7. Kasdan’s script for *Return of the Jedi* led to a film that is full of adventure and colorful characters.
8. The western *Silverado* is another film by Kasdan.
9. The actor Kevin Kline is one of the stars of *Silverado*.
10. Kasdan was once a student at the University of Michigan.

**Exercise B** Complete each sentence by writing a predicate nominative or a predicate adjective on the line provided. You may have to write more than one word for a sentence to be meaningful. Above each complement, write PN for predicate nominative or PA for predicate adjective.

**Example 1.** Tuesday was _______ my birthday _______.

11. These lemons and grapefruit taste _______.
12. My cousin Isaiah is _______.
13. My uncle Nathan is _______.
14. Mario and Marco are _______.
15. The little girl felt _______.

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**A predicate nominative** is a word or word group that is in the predicate and that identifies the subject.

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

**Predicate Nominative** Mammals are **vertebrates**.

**Predicate Adjective** Mammals are **warm blooded**.
**Review A: Identifying Complements**

**EXERCISE** Identify the underlined word in the following sentences by writing above it **DO** for direct object, **IO** for indirect object, **PN** for predicate nominative, or **PA** for predicate adjective. Add **C** if it is part of a compound object or subject complement.

**Example 1.** This tall tale is silly yet entertaining!

1. I’ll tell you and your friends an American tale or two.
2. According to legend, Pecos Bill was the inventor of the lasso.
3. Coyotes raised the young Pecos Bill.
4. His horse was Widow-Maker, and his wife was Slue-Foot Sue.
5. According to another tale, Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind rescued Davy Crockett.
6. Then she married him.
7. While growing up, she had given her brothers strong competition in wrestling, running, and fishing.
8. The physically powerful Paul Bunyan issued lumbermen their orders.
9. In one meal he devoured half of a wagon load of vegetables and several sides of beef.
10. Paul Bunyan’s pet ox Babe was huge and blue.
11. John Henry was incredibly strong as well.
12. In tall tales, he is a railroad worker in West Virginia and other areas.
13. In one tale, he challenges a machine to a contest of strength and speed.
14. Tall tales may seem impossibly far-fetched.
15. Some legends and tales, however, feature characters from real life.
16. Two real-life heroes were Johnny Appleseed and Davy Crockett.
17. Johnny Appleseed offered animals his friendship.
18. He also planted apple trees throughout Pennsylvania.
19. The dates of Appleseed’s birth and death are 1774 and 1845.
20. Davy Crockett’s life spanned the years from 1786 to 1836.
EXERCISE A Identify the underlined word in the following sentences by writing above it DO for direct object, IO for indirect object, PN for predicate nominative, or PA for predicate adjective. Add C if the word is part of a compound object or subject complement.

Example 1. Old Yeller is the name of a dog in one of my favorite books.

1. Fred Gipson wrote a wonderful book called Old Yeller.
2. I know the book will give you hours of pleasant reading.
3. The main character and narrator is Travis, a teenage boy.
4. The setting is Texas, just after the Civil War.
5. Travis is responsible for the farm during his father’s absence.
6. One day, a stray dog steals some meat.
7. To Travis, the dog seems ugly and useless.
8. However, the dog soon becomes a companion and a hero.
9. The dog gains the family’s affection and gratitude.
10. I will lend you my copy of Old Yeller if you want to read a terrific book.

EXERCISE B Underline the complement in each of the following sentences. Then, identify the complement by writing above it DO for direct object, IO for indirect object, PN for predicate nominative, or PA for predicate adjective. Some sentences have more than one complement.

Example 1. Are onions the pizza topping?

11. Rumpelstiltskin spun straw into gold for the miller’s daughter.
12. Earth is not the only planet in the solar system with a moon.
13. That house has a lovely porch.
14. My older brother is now a sophomore at Princeton University.
15. Please send Sarah a postcard while you are traveling.
16. This apple tastes slightly sour.
17. Mark Twain’s home in Hartford, Connecticut, has become a museum.
18. We read the class a ballad about John Henry.
19. Many of the magician’s tricks were unbelievable.
20. Was the pep rally before the game fun?
EXERCISE A  Identify the underlined word in the following sentences by writing above it DO for direct object, IO for indirect object, PN for predicate nominative, or PA for predicate adjective. Add C if it is part of a compound object or subject complement.

Example 1. Tell Marianne and me a pirate story!

1. One of New England’s early pirates was Dixie Bull.
2. He attacked ships and trading posts in Maine until 1633.
3. Before he turned to piracy, Bull had been a trader and a fisherman.
4. But French pirates stole all of his supplies and boats.
5. Angered at this, he became a pirate as well.
6. Key West, Florida, is famous for the pirates who once sailed in and out.
7. The ocean off Key West is often violent and dangerous.
8. The harsh waves and huge rocks gave ships a terrible beating.
9. Pirates would watch the ships as they passed through the rough waters.
10. They would give the officers and crew aid, but they would also take the cargoes.

EXERCISE B  Underline the complement in each of the following sentences. Then, identify the complement by writing above it DO for direct object, IO for indirect object, PN for predicate nominative, or PA for predicate adjective.

Example 1. I have just discovered the thought-provoking writings of Thoreau.

11. Henry David Thoreau wrote Walden.
12. It is a book about his experiences near Walden Pond in Massachusetts.
13. Thoreau was a teacher in Concord, Massachusetts.
14. In 1845, he left his home and went to the woods near Walden Pond.
15. His cabin in the woods was small.
16. He was seeking a life of simplicity.
17. His life at Walden Pond was an experiment in quiet solitude.
18. For Thoreau, nature seemed peaceful and instructive.
19. His daily journal about his life and thoughts became Walden.
20. I will read you one of the inspiring quotations about his search for personal freedom.