Complements

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

EXAMPLES
Fran told him the good news. [Him and news complete the meaning of the verb told.]
Paco was happy about the news. [Happy completes the meaning of the verb was.]

EXERCISE A
Underline the complement(s) in each of the following sentences.

Example 1. Mia and I visited Mr. Merkenson’s plant nursery.

1. Mr. Merkenson is a horticulturist.
2. He grows many different kinds of plants at the nursery.
3. Mr. Merkenson showed us some lovely ferns.
4. All of the ferns looked extremely healthy.
5. Do ferns require any special care?
6. Ferns are rather hardy plants.
7. Mr. Merkenson handed me a booklet about ferns.
8. I read the part about plant care.
9. Mia and I bought our mother a beautiful Boston fern.
10. Our mother seemed appreciative of the gift.

EXERCISE B
In each of the following sentences, identify the underlined word by writing above it COMP for complement, ADV for adverb, or OP for object of a preposition.

Example 1. I met with my school counselor today.

11. The eighth-graders are forming a recycling campaign at the school.
12. Because of the rainy weather, we stayed indoors all day.
13. Are all of these cards and letters for me?
14. The guest speaker spoke to the class about fire prevention.
15. The Nineteenth Amendment gave women the right to vote.
16. My little brother grew restless toward the end of the movie.
17. The president of the company addressed her audience eloquently.
18. Do all bears hibernate during the winter months?
19. Claudio had bought a new suit especially for the occasion.
20. Aunt Epatha is a collector of rare books.
Direct Objects

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

Examples
Ms. Damon arranged the desks into a circle.
She bought a sofa and a chair. [compound direct object]

Exercise
In the following sentences, circle the verb and underline the direct object. Some sentences do not have a direct object.

Example 1. Tonight I will read the last chapter of this book.

1. Ms. McCourt manages her business carefully.
2. Our tabby cat, Mr. Alp, stalked the mouse through the garden.
3. Please bring me a salad from the sandwich shop on the corner.
4. At first, she put the dog and the cat in separate rooms.
5. Jada and Whitney attended their ten-year high school reunion last week.
6. He could have talked about African history for hours.
7. Has the detective reached a conclusion about the burglary yet?
8. The mathematician thought about the unusual proof for several days.
9. The final scene of that movie completely surprised me.
10. After the final performance of the play, Ms. Marrazzo congratulated the cast and crew.
11. At his concert last night, Taj Mahal played “Think,” a blues song.
12. Did you rent any videos last week?
13. The author finally published the article.
14. Conchata practices piano three times a week.
15. I’ll be waiting for your call.
16. Mr. Pinkett gave his old books, a computer, and a mattress to the Salvation Army.
17. Did you hear the president on the radio this morning?
18. For my birthday, my sister gave me the latest book in the series.
19. Mr. Miyasaki is an expert on bonsai trees.
20. In a seat at the back of the theater, the playwright watched her play.
Indirect Objects

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

An indirect object tells to whom or to what or for whom or for what the action of the verb is done.

**Examples**

Aunt Aretha bought **herself** a terrarium. [Note: Terrarium is the direct object.]
Later she gave **Theo and me** the terrarium. [compound indirect object]

An indirect object is never part of a prepositional phrase.

**Example**

Later she gave the terrarium to **Theo and me**. [objects of the preposition to]

**Exercise** In each of the following sentences, underline the indirect object. If a sentence does not have an indirect object, write **None** after it.

**Example 1.** In 1993, the Swedish Academy gave Toni Morrison the Nobel Prize for Literature.

1. Iola sent her brother a gift certificate for his birthday.
2. Miriam, Judy, and Roberto taught themselves three-part harmony.
3. Tell me the answer.
4. Ms. Ankers found her glasses on the floor under her bed.
5. The tall man gave us directions to the film festival.
6. Gregory bought himself a burrito for lunch.
7. At the American Museum of Natural History, Mr. Hsing showed James the hall of dinosaurs.
8. Kendall offered Jason his congratulations for winning the bicycle race.
9. At the wedding reception Chang sang Meg and Gordon their favorite song.
10. What gave you the idea for your story?
11. Mr. Linson took us on a field trip to the art museum.
12. After pondering the problem for a long time, Dean revealed his solution to us.
13. Very carefully, Annie offered the stray cat a piece of tuna fish.
14. The coach gave Vic, Bob, and Dan their varsity sweaters.
15. Carter returned the broken CD player to the manufacturer.
16. Our neighborhood grocery store provided the food for our annual charity picnic.
17. When you come back to the table, please bring me the mustard.
18. Jed told the class a story about his trip to Vermont.
19. The company will give you whatever you need to finish the job.
20. The little girl’s story won the hearts of the nation.
Direct Objects and Indirect Objects

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

**EXAMPLE** The Bavarian king Ludwig II built Neuschwanstein Castle.

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

An indirect object tells to whom or to what or for whom or for what the action of the verb is done.

**EXAMPLE** Ludwig II built himself many other castles. [Note: Castles is a direct object.]

**Exercise A** In each of the following sentences, identify the underlined word by writing above it **DO** for direct object, **IO** for indirect object, or **OP** for object of a preposition.

**Example 1.** Robert Louis Stevenson wrote *Kidnapped*.

1. The novel offers readers a great adventure.

2. In the novel a poor boy finds himself a captive on a ship.

3. The captain of the ship forces the young prisoner to work for him.

4. He brings the captain food and other supplies.

5. Eventually, the boy and another passenger secretly make plans to escape.

**Exercise B** In the following sentences, draw one line under each direct object and two lines under each indirect object. Not every sentence contains an indirect object. (Hint: At least one sentence contains a compound direct object or a compound indirect object.)

**Example 1.** Carlos bought his brother a birthday gift.

6. Charlotte and I gave our Dalmatian puppy a bath.

7. Eartha told Kim and me a secret.

8. Pass me the ball!

9. After dinner last night, Dad told us a hilarious story.

10. The explorers found the valuable treasure in a cave.

11. At soccer practice, we ran ten laps around the field.

12. At the request of the teacher, each student made a list of his or her goals.

13. Did Karen accept your invitation to the fiesta?

14. Gail gave her story a one-word title.

15. At the beginning of the tour, the museum guide handed each of us a name tag and a brochure.
Direct Objects and Indirect Objects B

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

   **EXAMPLE** Terence framed a photograph for his grandmother.

13c. An **indirect object** is a noun, pronoun, or word group that sometimes appears in sentences containing direct objects. An indirect object tells *to whom* or *to what* or *for whom* or *for what* the action of the verb is done.

   **EXAMPLE** Terence sent her the card for Grandparents Day. [Note: Card is a direct object.]

**Exercise A** In each of the following sentences, identify the underlined word by writing above it **DO** for *direct object*, **IO** for *indirect object*, or **OP** for *object of a preposition*.

   **Example 1.** My uncle gave me a guitar for my birthday.

1. He also gave me a book of easy-to-play Beatles songs.
2. The book shows the reader the hand positions for each song.
3. So far, I have taught myself three songs.
4. I have learned “Yesterday,” “Hey Jude,” and “Yellow Submarine.”
5. After he heard me play, my uncle praised me for my [ ]

**Exercise B** In the following sentences, draw one line under each direct object and two lines under each indirect object. Not every sentence contains an indirect object.

   **Example 1.** The coach offered us a chance to play.

6. Ms. Wong wrote the store a check for the groceries.
7. Sophie told Carmen the complete story.
8. Carl proposed a title for the film.
9. Offer our guest some soup, Cedric.
10. The newspaper article gave Cody an idea for a story.
11. Just in case, the purser issued every passenger a life vest.
12. Give yourselves a nice round of applause.
13. The avalanche carried away the empty cabin.
14. Mother gave Tim and me some money for lunch at school.
15. Helen gave a tour of the studio to Tonya and Peter.
Subject Complements

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

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

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.
Predicate Nominatives and Predicate Adjectives A

13e. 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]

13f. 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

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.]

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 teacher.

1. Ms. Juarez is also an imaginative playwright.
2. “A Dog’s Life” is one of her humorous one-act plays.
3. In this play a man becomes a full-grown Labrador retriever.
4. The man’s children seem pleased with their new pet.
5. 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 angry and frustrated to you?

6. The dachshund is a highly intelligent breed of dog.
7. Does the water in the swimming pool feel too cold to you?
8. Broccoli is one of my favorite vegetables.
9. The finalists in the eighth-grade geography bee are Kim Chun and she.
10. The action in this movie may be too violent for some viewers.
11. The photographer seemed quite pleased with his pictures.
12. Una was certainly happy about the contest results.
13. All of the scouts appeared tired and hungry after their long hike.
14. My mother is a skilled carpenter.
15. Is Rufino Tamayo the Mexican artist who painted Homage to Juárez?
EXERCISE A  In each of the following sentences, identify the underlined word by writing above it COMP for complement, ADV for adverb, or OP for object of a preposition.

Examples  1. Who invented the telephone?  
           2. Who was the inventor of the telephone?

1. Alexander Graham Bell is the name of the inventor of the telephone.
2. For many years, telephones did not have dials or push buttons.
3. Telephone operators would place calls for people.
4. A caller would tell an operator the telephone number to call.
5. Telephones with dials became popular in the 1930s.
6. Callers would turn the dials with their fingers.
7. With dial phones people could place their calls more readily than before.
8. Today’s touch-tone phones are an improvement over dial phones.
9. With touch-tone phones people can place their calls quickly.
10. Today, callers can telephone nearly anyone in the world in a few seconds.

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

Example  1. Nearly every day, my pen pal sends me an e-mail message.

11. Celine, my e-mail pal, is Canadian.
12. Montreal, Quebec, is her hometown.
13. Celine and I are both excited about our correspondence.
14. Like me, she speaks both English and French fluently.
15. We have the same tastes in music.
16. She e-mailed me a long letter yesterday.
17. In her letter she thanked me for the birthday gift.
18. I had given her the latest CD by her favorite country singer.
19. We are great fans of the last song on the CD.
20. Celine sent my family and me tickets to a concert in New York City.
Review B: Complements

**EXERCISE A** In each of the following sentences, identify the underlined word by writing above it COMP for complement, ADV for adverb, or OP for object of a preposition.

**Examples** 1. Baseball is my favorite sport. **COMP**
   2. Have you ever been to a professional baseball **OP** game?

1. My uncle Mark took my entire **family** to a baseball game yesterday. **COMP**
2. It was a beautiful day for the **game**.
3. The weather was **sunny** and warm.
4. The weather, however, suddenly changed on our way to the **stadium**.
5. The sun disappeared, and storm clouds gathered directly **overhead**.
6. By the time of our arrival, though, the sky was once again **clear**.
7. Everyone in my family, even my sister, enjoyed the **game**.
8. One player gave my **sister** his autograph.
9. Naturally, we cheered **enthusiastically** during each of his turns at bat.
10. Like me, my sister is now an avid baseball fan.

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

**Example** 1. People ask me many **questions** about my hobby. **IO** **DO**

11. People are curious about my unusual collection. **IO**
12. I started the collection at my old house in Michigan. **DO**
13. My mother had hired a crew of carpenters. **IO**
14. Each carpenter was a skilled roofer. **DO**
15. They carefully pulled the old shingles off the roof. **DO**
16. The nails in the boards under the shingles were old and unusually **large**. **IO**
17. One of the carpenters noticed my interest in the nails. **IO**
18. I handed her an empty box. **DO**
19. She gave me some of the nails. **IO**
20. Those were the first ones in my collection of handmade nails. **IO**
EXERCISE In each of the following sentences, identify each of the underlined words or word groups by writing above it DO for direct object, IO for indirect object, PN for predicate nominative, or PA for predicate adjective.

Examples 1. Please bring me a towel.
2. Don’t worry; this recipe is easy.

1. Now that the election is over, Mr. Danton will be our new representative in Congress.
2. The English author Charles Dickens offers modern readers a vivid look at city life in the nineteenth century.
3. That seedling will eventually become a tree.
4. Marcia, read the class and me your essay.
5. We all use our backpacks to carry our books to and from school.
6. Jenna, my best friend, is the tallest person on our volleyball team.
7. This music is pretty exotic, don’t you think?
8. Some people buy older homes and restore them.
9. Doesn’t the new stereo sound wonderful?
10. Call the switchboard and ask for Jill.
11. The millionaire provided the scientist with the money to finish his research.
12. Did you give the dog his medicine and a treat this morning?
13. The aspiring writer gave the editor several chapters from his book.
14. Everyone in our family is a good diver and a good swimmer.
15. Nelson is curious about marine archaeology.
16. Please tell your sister and me the truth.
17. The ice on the lake seemed thicker the day after the temperature dropped.
18. Who is the person who left the beautiful flowers on my desk?
19. I think I look good in my new shirt.
20. Freddie brought a bat and a baseball glove to the first day of practice.