

# Complements

## Subjective Complements

### Pre-Test

A score of 90% or better on this test indicates a mastery of the skills for which this test has been designed.

**DIRECTIONS:** In the blanks provided, write the number of the sentence pattern which identifies the sentence structure. Use the numbers of the sentence patterns listed here.

1. Subject/Noun <sub>N</sub> - Verb <sub>V</sub>
2. Subject/Noun-Linking Verb <sub>LV</sub> - Adjective <sub>ADJ</sub> (complement)
3. Subject/Noun-Linking Verb-Noun or Pronoun (complement)
4. Subject/Noun-Verb-Adverb <sub>ADV</sub>

**EXAMPLES:**

3 1. Gerald <sub>N</sub> is <sub>LV</sub> the captain <sub>N</sub> [of the team] <sub>PP</sub>.

4 2. Mr. Golden <sub>N</sub> paced <sub>V</sub> nervously <sub>ADV</sub> [around the room] <sub>PP</sub>.

1 3. The dog <sub>N</sub> slept <sub>V</sub> [in front of the fire] <sub>PP</sub>.

2 4. The scene <sub>N</sub> was <sub>LV</sub> beautiful <sub>ADJ</sub>.

- \_\_\_ 1. Martha's speech was persuasive.
- \_\_\_ 2. Helen is the girl in the red coat.
- \_\_\_ 3. The guest speaker was Gore Vidal.
- \_\_\_ 4. Bridget seems happy about the decision.
- \_\_\_ 5. The baby calf wobbled awkwardly toward its mother.
- \_\_\_ 6. The fire occurred in the middle of the night.

- \_\_\_ 7. At what hour did Leonard arrive?
- \_\_\_ 8. Jasper remained sullen after our argument.
- \_\_\_ 9. I feel tall after my stretching exercises.
- \_\_\_ 10. Jonathan is Joseph's twin.
- \_\_\_ 11. His home was his castle.
- \_\_\_ 12. Mother became irate with our antics.
- \_\_\_ 13. Bob felt ill after the party.
- \_\_\_ 14. Your suggestion sounds good to me.
- \_\_\_ 15. Father was dejected after losing his job.
- \_\_\_ 16. Their efforts will prove beneficial on bringing about change.
- \_\_\_ 17. The captain of the football team is Richard Horvath.
- \_\_\_ 18. The account of your trip sound exciting.
- \_\_\_ 19. The woman walking toward our house appears to be Mrs. Goodsail.
- \_\_\_ 20. My cousin is a stranger to this part of California.

**Answers on the last page.**

# Linking or Copulative Verbs and Subjective Complements

Unlike verbs which indicate action, a linking or copulative verb expresses a static condition or state of being. The function of copulative verbs is to couple or link the subject and verb to a complement, a noun, pronoun, or adjective which follows the verb.

<b>EXAMPLE:</b>		
<b>Subject</b>	<b>LV</b>	<b>Adj (subject complement)</b>
<b>The surface</b>	<b>was</b>	<b>rough.</b>
<b>EXAMPLE:</b>		
<b>Subject</b>	<b>LV</b>	<b>Noun (subject complement)</b>
<b>The instructor</b>	<b>is</b>	<b>Helen Clayborn.</b>
<b>EXAMPLE:</b>		
<b>Subject</b>	<b>LV</b>	<b>Pronoun (subject complement)</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>am</b>	<b>she.</b>

Review the most often used linking or copulative verbs listed here.

am	be	feel	smell
are	been	grow	sound
is	appear	prove	stand
was	become	remain	taste
were	continue	seem	turn

When adverbs follow these verbs, the verb is not identified as a linking verb.

<b>PATTERN:</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Adverb</b>	
<b>EXAMPLE:</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Adverb</b>	<b>Prep. Phrases</b>
<b>Jonathan</b>	<b>stood</b>	<b>nervously</b>	<b>in front of the class.</b>
<b>EXAMPLE:</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Adj. (Sub. Comp.)</b>	<b>Prep. Phrases</b>
<b>Jonathan</b>	<b>became</b>	<b>nervous</b>	<b>in front of the class.</b>
<b>EXAMPLE:</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>LV</b>	<b>Adj. (Sub. Comp.)</b>	<b>Prep. Phrases</b>
<b>Jonathan</b>	<b>stood</b>	<b>tall</b>	<b>in front of the class.</b>

The adverb which follows the verb refers to the action of the verb. The last two examples illustrate adjectives following linking verbs.

# Pre-Test

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**DIRECTIONS:** In the blanks provided, write the number if the sentence pattern which identifies the sentence structure. Use the numbers of the sentence patterns listed here.

1. Subject/Noun N - Verb V
2. Subject/Noun-Linking Verb LV - Adjective ADJ (complement)
3. Subject/Noun-Liking Verb-Noun or Pronoun (complement)
4. Subject/Noun-Verb-Adverb ADV

**EXAMPLE:**

- 1   1. Henry N laughed V [at the clown] PP.
- 4   2. Mark N stood V anxiously [before the judge] PP.
- 3   3. The man N [in the dark coat] PP is LV the prisoner N.
- 2   4. The milk N taste LV sour ADJ.

1. In the midst of turmoil, Stephanie remained calm.
2. She was the queen of the ball.
3. The tree in our front yard grew tall and strong.
4. Mother seemed happy with our plans for a holiday.
5. My instructor was in a dither about the lost books.
6. The bread baking the oven smells good.
7. Alicia turned pale at the sight of the dissected frog.
8. The committee's efforts proved helpful in collecting funds for underprivileged children.

- \_\_\_ 9. To me, your excuse sounds phony.
- \_\_\_ 10. Joe Montana is the quarterback for the San Francisco Fortyniners.
- \_\_\_ 11. My father grew impatient with my requests for a larger allowance.
- \_\_\_ 12. We felt eagerly for the touch of a receiving hand.
- \_\_\_ 13. Dennis seemed to be dissatisfied with his prospects of getting a job before Christmas.
- \_\_\_ 14. Patience is the clue to solving most of my personal and professional problems.
- \_\_\_ 15. Sharon continued with her research about the migrations of birds.
- \_\_\_ 16. I am the person who became irate with the guests who appeared at such a late hour.
- \_\_\_ 17. The explanation seems appropriate and convincing.
- \_\_\_ 18. My sister has always been a true friend to me.

**Answers on the last page.**

### **Pre-Test Answers**

1. 2	6. 1	11. 3	16. 2
2. 3	7. 1	12. 2	17. 3
3. 3	8. 2	13. 2	18. 2
4. 2	9. 2	14. 2	19. 3
5. 4	10. 3	15. 2	20. 3

### **Post-Test Answers**

1. 2	7. 2	13. 1
2. 3	8. 2	14. 3
3. 2	9. 2	15. 1
4. 2	10. 3	16. 3
5. 1	11. 2	17. 2
6. 2	12. 4	18. 3