

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 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

EXAMPLES:

3 1. Gerald N is LV the captain N [of the team] PP.

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

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

2 4. The scene N was LV beautiful ADJ.

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.

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

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.

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

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

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1. Subject/Noun N - Verb V
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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