

Parts of the Sentence

Complements

A complement

A word (or group of words) which complete the meaning of the subject and verb

Complements are located in the predicate half of the sentence!

- S V C
- Mrs. Hill is our new senator.
- S V C
- She is very tall.
- Our science teacher performed an experiment.
- Both Nick and Betsy appeared quite confident.

Try writing sentences for these:

Subject

Verb

Complement

Student

left

room

Remarks

were

clever

Center

passed

ball

Chemical

was identified

Child

looked

unhappy

A Quick Refresher on Verbs : Linking v (Action)

Linking verbs do NOT show action

Linking verbs often show a state of being

Forms of to be: is, am, are, was, were, be, being, been...

Action verbs express action! They *do*.

run, jump, leap, twirl, kick, hack, throw, move, glide, etc.....

Back to Complements

The subject complement: PN or PA

Does it modify or describe the subject of the sentence?

A noun, pronoun, or adjective that follows a **linking** verb

identifies, describes, or explains the subject of the sentence

- Steve **is an Eagle Scout**. = Eagle Scout is a **noun**, and identifies the subject (Steve)
- Kathryn **grew weary**. = weary is an **adjective**, and describes the subject (Kathryn)
- Nick is a third grader.

Be careful!

Some verbs can be either **linking** or **action**!

The monkey **looked** hungry. = looked is a state of being, here

The monkey **looked** for food. = looked is an action word in this instance

The soup tasted good.

I tasted the soup.

Tricky verbs: feel, taste, look, smell, appear, grow, remain, stay, turn, seem, sound, become, prove

Direct Objects and Indirect Objects:

Does it receive the action of the verb, or show the result of the action?

Direct objects follow **Action Verbs**

Direct objects: a word (or group of words) that directly receives the action expressed by the verb

Answers the question “what?”

The secretary **typed** the **report**. = report doesn't modify the subject!

The quarterback **threw** the **football**. = what did the quarterback throw? The **football** receives the action.

Indirect Objects (cont'd)

Indirect object is a noun or pronoun hangin' with the predicate
It tells "to whom" or "for whom" the verb was done
It precedes the direct object

- The instructor **gave** some lessons.
- The instructor **gave me** some lessons. = me receives the lessons

- Kyra **baked** me a cake.
- Kyra **baked** a cake for me.

Compound complements

Complements may be compound

• S V PN PN

- The names of the dogs are **Gypsy** and **Boots**.

• S V PA PA

- She is **tall** and **thin**.

• S V DO DO

- The next group includes the **collies** and the **terriers**.

• S V IO IO

- The noise had given **my brother** and **me** a scare.

How to find the complements?

First, find the subject and verb of each sentence.

- S V V
- (You) Never smack a dog or hurt it in any way.

Next, eliminate any prepositional phrases.

- S V V
- (You) Never smack a dog or hurt ~~it in any way~~.

Then, look at the verb. Is it linking or action?

- Smack & hurt are **action verbs**.

Finally, look at the words in the predicate.

For **Linking verbs**, is it a noun/pronoun (PN) or an adjective (PA)?

For **Action verbs**, does it receive the action?

- S V V
- (You) Never smack a **dog** or hurt **it** ~~in any way~~. **Dog** and **it** = **Direct objects**