

20.3 Subject Complements (Predicate Nominative, Predicate Adjective) • Practice 1

Subject Complements A predicate nominative is a noun or pronoun that follows a linking verb and renames, identifies, or explains the subject of a sentence.

| PREDICATE NOMINATIVES | |
|---|--|
| PN | |
| <u>Jackson</u> <u>became</u> a superstar . (<i>Superstar</i> renames <i>Jackson</i> .) | |
| PN | |
| The better <u>player</u> <u>is</u> Tim . (<i>Tim</i> identifies <i>player</i> .) | |

The Predicate Adjective A predicate adjective is an adjective that follows a linking verb and describes the subject of the sentence.

| PREDICATE ADJECTIVES | |
|---|--|
| PA | |
| The pizza <u>smelled</u> delicious . (<i>Delicious</i> describes <i>pizza</i> .) | |
| PA | |
| <u>Harry</u> <u>is</u> always late . (<i>Late</i> describes <i>Harry</i> .) | |

Exercise 1 Recognizing Predicate Nominatives. Underline each predicate nominative.

EXAMPLE: Helen has been my best friend since kindergarten.

- The Tigers are the team to beat.
- Math and science are my best subjects.
- My sister became a lawyer after years of study.
- The former President remained a prominent figure after leaving office.
- The specialty of the house is cheese fondue.
- Judy's plan seemed a workable one.
- The understudy became an overnight success.
- He is the best choice for the job.
- The executive remained an officer even after her retirement.
- Nero Wolfe is a famous fictional detective.

Exercise 2 Recognizing Predicate Adjectives. Underline each predicate adjective.

EXAMPLE: The movie sounds ridiculous.

- The first plan seemed unworkable.
- The color of that blouse is unbecoming.
- Paul was disappointed with his strikeout.
- Audrey sounded quite cheerful on the phone.
- The crowd grew restless because of the long delay.
- That centerpiece looks beautiful on the table.
- The singer appeared nervous before the concert.
- You will surely feel better after a nap.
- The patient grows stronger every day.
- The weather stayed sunny throughout the weekend.

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**Subject Complements (Predicate Nominative,
Predicate Adjective) • Practice 2****Exercise 1**

Recognizing Predicate Nominatives. Underline the predicate nominative in each sentence.

EXAMPLE: Carl is my brother.

1. Hawkins remained the best player on the team.
2. Some people stay children throughout their lives.
3. The first speaker was I.
4. Which of those records is a classic?
5. A hamburger seemed the safest thing to order.
6. The puppies in the corner are the ones for sale.
7. Our state senator may soon become governor.
8. The special today is broiled swordfish.
9. The girls have remained friends for years.
10. Ellen appears the strongest candidate.
11. Florence is Albert's youngest sister.
12. The result of the revolution was chaos.
13. The best item on the menu has always been the salmon.
14. The aroma in the air was clearly cinnamon.
15. Ramona is Rachel's best friend.

Exercise 2

Recognizing Predicate Adjectives. Underline the predicate adjective in each sentence.

EXAMPLE: Jean seems tired this afternoon.

1. The flowers smell heavenly.
2. I look awful in this shade of green.
3. Some of the cheese is moldy.
4. The pineapple tasted delicious.
5. The music sounds better from farther away.
6. The sky became cloudy toward evening.
7. I felt angry after our argument.
8. The weather remained hot all week.
9. The team's fans became more unhappy with each new setback.
10. The children grew tan from the summer sun.
11. The path is extremely treacherous.
12. The oatmeal seemed much too hot.
13. The moon was full last night.
14. The children looked very unhappy.
15. The price of the couch is much too high.

20.3 Subject Complements (Compound Subject Complements) • Practice 1

Compound Subject Complements A compound predicate nominative is two or more nouns or pronouns that follow a linking verb and rename the subject of the sentence. A compound predicate adjective is two or more adjectives that follow a linking verb and describe the subject of the sentence.

| COMPOUND SUBJECT COMPLEMENTS | |
|---|----------------------------|
| The new <u>officers</u> <u>are</u> Kate and Tom . (<i>Kate and Tom identify officers</i>) | PN PN |
| The <u>puppy</u> <u>was</u> hungry and dirty . (<i>Hungry and dirty describe puppy.</i>) | PA PA |

Exercise 1 **Recognizing Compound Subject Complements.** Underline the nouns or adjectives that make up each compound subject complement. On the line at the right, write *PN* for predicate nominative or *PA* for predicate adjective to describe each one.

EXAMPLE: The chair is neither attractive nor sturdy. PA

1. The twins are Kim and Karen. _____
2. The main-course choices are steak, shrimp, or chicken. _____
3. That blazer is neither attractive nor affordable. _____
4. Cory will become either a lawyer or a politician. _____
5. When annoyed, the dog becomes mean and vicious. _____
6. After the long drought, the ground looks hard and dusty. _____
7. My favorite breakfast is pancakes and sausage. _____
8. The pizza will be ready and waiting in ten minutes. _____
9. Monsieur Henri is the owner and chef of that restaurant. _____
10. Without proper care, the plant may become bent or discolored. _____

Exercise 2 **Writing Sentences with Compound Subject Complements.** Each sentence below contains a subject complement. On each line to the right, add a conjunction and a noun or adjective to make the subject complement compound. Be sure the word you add is the same part of speech as the subject complement given.

EXAMPLE: The child became tired and cranky.

1. That remark sounded rude _____.
2. The stew tastes both rich _____.
3. Every visitor to their home feels comfortable _____.
4. The winner will surely be either Hank _____.
5. The best math students are Ellen _____.
6. All the fans felt proud _____.
7. A good snack would be fruit _____.
8. That star is both intelligent _____.
9. The losing team felt neither discouraged _____.
10. Her favorite months are January _____.

20.3 Subject Complements (Compound Subject Complements) • Practice 2

Exercise 1 **Recognizing Compound Subject Complements.** Underline the nouns or adjectives that make up each compound subject complement. Then label each compound complement as a *predicate nominative* or *predicate adjective*.

EXAMPLE: The museum is beautiful and interesting. predicate adjective

(1) The most frequent visitors to the museum are foreign visitors or other out-of-towners. (2) The museum's treasures are mainly furniture and paintings. (3) Its collection grows larger and better every year. (4) The paintings are old and valuable. (5) Most of them are pastels, watercolors, or oils. (6) The majority of paintings are Dutch or Italian. (7) The museum's furnishings are graceful and elegant. (8) The most interesting pieces in the foyer are a colonial table, a Philadelphia clock, and a silver lamp. (9) Other museum highlights are its beautiful rugs and its formal gardens. (10) The museum is free to the public and open daily except holidays.

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

Writing Application **Writing Sentences with Subject Complements.** Use each subject and verb to write a sentence with the kind of subject complement indicated.

EXAMPLE: Liz seems (predicate adjective) Liz seems excited about the trip.

1. friends are (compound predicate nominative)

2. dogs became (predicate adjective)

3. baby grew (compound predicate adjective)

4. Eric became (predicate nominative)

5. singer was (predicate nominative)

6. leaves turned (compound predicate adjective)

7. vegetables are (compound predicate nominative)

8. guests looked (predicate adjective)

9. voice sounded (predicate adjective)

10. Agnes remained (predicate nominative)
