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((Verb Complements))

Verb Complements

A verb complement is a word, phrase, or clause that follows the verb to add more information. Verb complements strengthen the meaning and impact of the verb in a sentence. A subordinate clause that functions as the subject, direct object, or prepositional object of a verb, as 'that you like it' in I'm surprised *that you like it*.

In grammar, a complement is a word or word group that completes the predicate in a sentence. In contrast to modifiers, which are optional, complements are required to complete the meaning of a sentence or a part of a sentence.

There are five kinds of complements. Three of them are used with action verbs only: *direct objects, indirect objects, and object complements*. Two others, called subject complements, are *predicate nominatives and predicate adjectives*.

Subject Complements

Subject complements rename or describe the subjects of sentences. In other words, they *complement the subjects*.

Many of these complements are nouns, pronouns, or other nominals that rename or provide additional information about the subject of the sentence. They always follow linking verbs. A less contemporary term for a noun, pronoun, or other nominal used as a subject complement is predicate nominative.

These are examples of subject complements:

- My uniform is *torn and dirty*.
- My uniform is *a T-shirt and jeans*.

In the first example, the subject complement *torn and dirty* explains the subject *My uniform*. It tells how it is. In the second example, the subject complement *T- shirt and jeans* explains the subject *My uniform*. It tells what it is.

Other subject complements are adjectives that modify the subjects of sentences. They also follow linking verbs. A less contemporary term for an adjective used as a subject complement is predicate adjective.

- My coworkers are friendly.
- This story is exciting.

"In the first example, the subject complement *friendly* modifies the subject *coworkers*. In the second example, the subject complement *exciting* modifies the subject *story*."

- Imagination is *the one weapon* in the war against reality.
- Love is *an exploding cigar* we willingly smoke.

Object Complements

An object complement always follows the direct object and either renames or describes the direct object. Consider this sentence:

- She named the baby Bruce.

The verb is *named*. Any word following the direct object that renames or describes the direct object is an object complement. She named the baby Bruce, so *Bruce* is the object complement.

- Jimmy's teacher called him a *troublemaker*.
- The teacher's remark made me *angry*.
- The widow she cried over me, and called me *a poor lost lamb*, and she called me *a lot of other names, too*.

The object complement characterizes the object in the same way as the subject complement characterizes the subject: it identifies, describes, or locates the object as in:

We chose Bill as group leader,

We consider him a fool,

She laid the baby in the crib

Note that *be* or some other copula verb can often be inserted between the direct object and the object complement as in *I consider him to be a fool.*

Object complements can appear in different forms:

- **Noun and noun phrases:** We use nouns and noun phrases as object complements when the sentence has a **factitive verb** such as **elect, appoint, make, choose, deem, assign, name, select, vote** and etc. Factitive verbs are used to indicate the result or state of the object after the action of the verb. For example:
 - We named our son Alan
 - **Adverbs and adverb phrases:** Adverbs of place can serve as complements to direct objects. For example:
 - Johnny put the turkey in the oven.
 - **Adjectives and Adjective Phrases:** Adjectives or adjective phrases can modify or describe the direct object of a sentence. However, as with all object complements, these adjectives must immediately follow the direct object they are modifying. If they are placed before the direct object, they are acting as attributive adjectives and are not necessary to complete the meaning of the sentence. Pay attention to some examples:
 - I want to make my friend happy
 - **Prepositional phrases:** A prepositional phrase can also be used to complement the direct object like:

- She had a fear of heights.

For more understanding, below are complements sentences to be identified with their solutions:.

1. Luke and Lorelai named their daughter *Rory*. – **Object Complement**
2. What I said made my uncle *angry*. – **Object Complement**
3. The chief guest was *late* to the meeting. – **Subject Complement**
4. I am *irritated*. – **Subject Complement**
5. All the members of the team were *not happy* with the decision. – **Subject Complement**
6. We elected Gokul *the class leader*. – **Object Complement**
7. The cupboard was *broken*. – **Subject Complement**
8. My neighbour is *French*. – **Subject Complement**
9. Yesterday, the whole city was *on red alert*. – **Subject Complement**
10. Dennis is an *architect*. – **Subject Complement**