

# Subject Complements

## Reteaching

Complements are words that complete the meaning or action of verbs. **Subject complements** are words that follow a linking verb and identify or describe the subject.

**Predicate adjectives** are subject complements that describe or modify the subject.

The snow was heavy.

SUBJECT	LINKING	PREDICATE
	VERB	ADJECTIVE

**Predicate nominatives** are subject complements that are nouns or pronouns. They identify, rename, or define the subject.

The trip became a nightmare.

SUBJECT	LINKING	PREDICATE
	VERB	ADJECTIVE

## Identifying Linking Verbs and Subject Complements

In the following sentences, underline the linking verbs once and the subject complements twice.

- All day the sky looked threatening.
- People became nervous about the weather bulletins.
- The chances for a major winter storm were excellent.
- After all, blizzards are dangerous storms.
- The roads became icy in early evening.
- Television announcers sounded frantic.
- The snow was light at first.
- The major highways became sheets of ice.
- Accumulations are the measurements of snow in inches.
- Accumulations were highest near the lake.
- Chardon and Chesterland were the sites of the most snow.
- The winds were fierce.
- The turnpike became impassable around two o'clock in the morning.
- The next morning, schools were empty.
- The outdoors became children's playgrounds.
- Snacks of the day were hot chocolate and popcorn.
- In people's homes, chocolate chip cookies smelled delicious.
- The snow plows remained busy all day.
- The winter storm warnings were only memories.
- The winter sun looked pale in the light blue sky.

**Lesson  
6**

**Subject Complements**

*More Practice*

**A. Identifying Types of Subject Complements**

In each of the following sentences, underline the linking verb once and the subject complement twice. Then, in the blank, write **PN** if the subject complement is a predicate nominative or **PA** if it is a predicate adjective.

**EXAMPLE** Weather is the state of the atmosphere. *PN*

1. Hurricanes are especially dangerous storms. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The eye of a hurricane is a calm area at the storm’s center. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The hurricane itself is an area of low air pressure. \_\_\_\_\_
4. In the western Pacific region, the name for *hurricane* is *typhoon*. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Hurricane tracking has become easier with modern equipment. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Hurricane winds are extremely strong. \_\_\_\_\_
7. These winds are often destructive. \_\_\_\_\_
8. A hurricane’s storm surge also becomes a major threat. \_\_\_\_\_
9. The storm surge seems especially dangerous at high tide. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Within the eye of the hurricane, the air stays calm. \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Using Subject Complements**

Complete each sentence below. First complete it with a predicate nominative. Then complete it with a predicate adjective.

**EXAMPLE** The tornado was a *vicious storm*.  
The tornado was *frightening*.

1. The sky became \_\_\_\_\_.  
The sky became \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The wind was \_\_\_\_\_.  
The wind was \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Tornadoes are \_\_\_\_\_.  
Tornadoes are \_\_\_\_\_.
4. After the tornado, our city was \_\_\_\_\_.  
After the tornado, our city was \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The tornado’s path was \_\_\_\_\_.  
The tornado’s path was \_\_\_\_\_.

# Subject Complements

## Application

### A. Writing Subject Complements

Rewrite each of the numbered items in the passage below with a new subject complement. Underline your new subject complement. If it is a predicate nominative, write **PN** in parentheses after the sentence. If it is a predicate adjective, write **PA**.

- (1) The flooding of the Mississippi River in 1993 was a disaster.  
 (2) Because of melting snows and heavy rains, the river became extremely high. (3) The situation was grim in river towns like St. Louis and Hannibal.  
 (4) Rising water was a constant threat. (5) In the face of the disaster, residents were courageous. (6) In fact, many of them were heroes.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Writing with Subject Complements

Using words from the columns below, write six sentences with subject complements. You may use each word only once, and you must use all the words. You may change the form of the verb. Add other words to make your sentences interesting.

Nouns	Verbs	Adjectives
cloud	was	warm
weather	has become	inaccurate
sky	felt	threatening
forecast	is	dangerous
sun	looks	clear
drought	seems	unstable

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_