Predicate Nominatives and Predicate Adjectives

A subject complement is a word or word group that is in the predicate and that describes or identifies the subject.

EXAMPLES
Lasagna is my favorite food. [predicate nominative identifying Lasagna]
That sauce tastes rich and tangy. [compound predicate adjective describing sauce]
How delicious this lasagna is! [predicate adjective describing lasagna]

EXERCISE A
Underline each subject complement in the following sentences. Then, above each write PN for predicate nominative or PA for predicate adjective.

Example 1. The best cooks are she and Paulo.

1. This is a fine restaurant.
2. The Marliave Ristorante has always been my favorite one.
3. The prices at the Marliave seem reasonable and affordable.
4. The chefs are Esther DeFalco and her brother.
5. Their recipes are traditional.
6. The ingredients smell and taste fresh.
7. The pasta in their lasagna is homemade and light.
8. “Be careful when rolling out the pasta dough,” Esther says.
10. For the DeFalcos, the making of pasta remains an art.

EXERCISE B
On the lines provided, make the following word groups into complete sentences by adding the kinds of subject complements identified in parentheses.

Example 1. (predicate adjective) Sailing away from home to a strange land seems frightening.

11. (predicate adjective) For some immigrants, the voyage to the United States was ________.
12. (predicate nominative) Was the decision to immigrate ____________________?
13. (compound predicate adjective) The immigrants must have been ________________.
14. (predicate nominative) The task of adapting to a new way of life is ________________.
15. (compound predicate nominative) Two of the families who immigrated with the DeFalcos were
Direct and Indirect Objects

A **direct object** is a noun, pronoun, or word group that tells who or what receives the action of a verb or shows the result of the action.

**Example** Gayle visited an **island** in Florida. [Gayle visited what? Island.]

An **indirect object** is a noun, pronoun, or word group that often appears in sentences containing direct objects. An indirect object tells to whom or to what (or for whom or for what) the action of a transitive verb is done.

**Example** Give **Tish** and **me** your tickets. [Give to whom? Tish and me.]

**Exercise A** Decide whether the underlined words in the following sentences are direct objects or indirect objects. Above each underlined word, write **DO** for direct object or **IO** for indirect object.

**Example 1.** Who gave the **teachers** and **students** the maps showing the farm’s location?

1. The juniors planned a **trip** to Belle Grove, a nineteenth-century farm.
2. Farm children performed many **chores** before school each day.
3. They gave the **chickens** feed and milked the cows.
4. All family members had specific **duties** in the barn and fields.
5. Farmhands scattered **straw** over the barn floor.
6. A blacksmith pounded the **steel** with his hammer.
7. He told **us** his experiences as the village blacksmith.
8. The students asked **him** many questions.
9. Farm women made **lace** and embroidered during the winter.
10. One woman showed **me** her handmade shawl.

**Exercise B** In the following sentences, underline direct objects once and indirect objects twice. Not all sentences contain both a direct object and an indirect object.

**Example 1.** The librarian showed my **friend** and **me** the biography **section**.

11. The Pulitzer Prize Board awarded Alex Haley a special citation for **Roots** in 1977.
12. In **Roots**, Haley presents a heroic saga about African Americans.
13. The book provides Americans some insight into the horrors of slavery.
15. Various organizations gave the miniseries prestigious awards.