

Predicate Nominatives and Predicate Adjectives

13i. 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 ^{*PN*} she and ^{*PN*} Paulo.

- This is a fine restaurant.
- The Marliave Ristorante has always been my favorite one.
- The prices at the Marliave seem reasonable and affordable.
- The chefs are Esther DeFalco and her brother.
- Their recipes are traditional.
- The ingredients smell and taste fresh.
- The pasta in their lasagna is homemade and light.
- “Be careful when rolling out the pasta dough,” Esther says.
- “The lasagna pasta must be paper-thin,” Vinicio points out.
- 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.

- (*predicate adjective*) For some immigrants, the voyage to the United States was _____.
- (*predicate nominative*) Was the decision to immigrate _____?
- (*compound predicate adjective*) The immigrants must have been _____.
- (*predicate nominative*) The task of adapting to a new way of life is _____.
- (*compound predicate nominative*) Two of the families who immigrated with the DeFalcos were _____.

Direct and Indirect Objects

13j. 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.]

13k. 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 ^{*IO*} teachers and ^{*IO*} students the maps showing the farm's location?

- The juniors planned a trip to Belle Grove, a nineteenth-century farm.
- Farm children performed many chores before school each day.
- They gave the chickens feed and milked the cows.
- All family members had specific duties in the barn and fields.
- Farmhands scattered straw over the barn floor.
- A blacksmith pounded the steel with his hammer.
- He told us his experiences as the village blacksmith.
- The students asked him many questions.
- Farm women made lace and embroidered during the winter.
- 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.

- The Pulitzer Prize Board awarded Alex Haley a special citation for *Roots* in 1977.
- In *Roots*, Haley presents a heroic saga about African Americans.
- The book provides Americans some insight into the horrors of slavery.
- Haley's book inspired a popular television miniseries.
- Various organizations gave the miniseries prestigious awards.