

## Complements Study Guide

### Direct Objects

- A direct object is a noun or pronoun that answers the question *Whom?* or *What?* after an action verb.
- To find a direct object, first find the subject and the action verb in a sentence. Then ask yourself *Whom?* or *What?* after the verb. The answer to either question will be a direct object.

Ex: Mark has two **tickets**. (Mark has what? *Tickets* is the direct object.)  
Carrie invited **them** to her party. (Carrie invited whom? *Them* is the direct object.)

- To find the direct object in a question, change the question into a statement.

Question Did you memorize your speech?

You did memorize your speech. (You did memorize what? *Speech* is the direct object.)

- A *compound direct object* consists of two or more direct objects following the same verb.

Compound direct object Uncle Luke sells hamsters and parakeets. (Uncle Luke sells what? The compound direct object is *hamsters* and *parakeets*.)

### Indirect Objects

- An **indirect object** is a noun or a pronoun that answers the questions *To whom?* or *For whom?* or *To what?* or *For what?* after an action verb.
- To find an indirect object, first find the direct object. Then ask yourself, *To whom?* *For whom?* *To what?* or *For what?* about the direct object. The answer to any of these questions will be an indirect object. **An indirect object always comes before a direct object.**

Indirect object I threw the **dolphins** some fish. (*Fish* is the direct object.  
I threw some fish to what? *Dolphins* is the indirect object.)  
The guide gave **everyone** a sample. (The guide gave a sample to whom? *Everyone* is the indirect object.)

- A *compound indirect object* consists of two or more indirect objects following the same verb.

Compound indirect object      I took **Mandy** and **them** some water. (You took water to whom? The compound indirect object is *Mandy* and *them*.)

- An indirect object can never be part of a prepositional phrase that begins with *to* or *for*.  
Ex: Same made dinner for us. (*Us* is **not** the indirect object. It is part of the prepositional phrase *for us*.)

## Predicate Nominatives

- A **predicate nominative** is a noun or a pronoun that follows a linking verb and identifies, renames, or explains the subject.
- In order to find the predicate nominative, you first must be able to recognize a linking verb. Please use your verb study guide for a complete list of linking verbs.
- To find the predicate nominative, first find the subject and the linking verb. Then find the noun or the pronoun that identifies, renames, or explains the subject. This word will be a predicate nominative.

Predicate nominative      Cheryl is the **leader**. (*Leader* renames the subject *Cheryl*.)  
Was that they on the beach? (Change a question into a statement. *That was they on the beach. They* renames the subject *that*.)

- A compound predicate nominative consists of two or more predicate nominatives following the same verb.

Compound predicate nominative      My best days are **Saturday** and **Sunday**. (The compound predicate nominative *Saturday* and *Sunday* renames the subject *days*.)

## Predicate Adjectives

- A **predicate adjective** is an adjective that follows a linking verb and modifies the subject.
- To find a predicate adjective, first find the subject and the linking verb. Then find an adjective that follows the verb and describes the subject. This word will be a predicate adjective.

Predicate adjective      Deer are usually **swift**. (*Swift* describes the subject – the *swift deer*.)

Is that coat too **small**? (Change a question into a statement. *That coat is too small*. *Small* describes the subject – the *small coat*.)

- A *compound predicate adjective* consists of two or more predicate adjectives following the same verb.

Compound predicate adjective      The subway was **fast** and **clean**. (Both *clean* and *fast* describe the subject *subway*.)