

# 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.

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

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

### 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*.

- The sky became a threat.  
The sky became threatening.
- The wind was a funnel of danger.  
The wind was so dangerous.
- Tornadoes are a danger.  
Tornadoes are terrifying.
- After the tornado, our city was a mess.  
After the tornado, our city was messy.
- The tornado's path was a wide path.  
The tornado's path was alarming.