

LINKING VERBS

A linking verb expresses being (existence) or state of being (condition).

A linking verb requires a noun or an adjective to complete its meaning. This noun or adjective is called a **subjective complement (subject complement)**. The noun form of the subjective complement is called the **predicate nominative (predicate noun)**, and the adjective form is called the **predicate adjective**.



The predicate nominative (subject complement) means the same as the subject (renames the subject).

S LV PN
EXAMPLES: George Washington was President.
 S LV PN
 Mary is the captain of her team.

The predicate nominative usually follows one of these:

am	was	been	become
is	were	being	became
are	be	becomes	becoming

The predicate adjective (subjective complement) describes, modifies, limits, or points out the subject.

S LV PA
EXAMPLES: The flowers look beautiful.

 S LV PA
 Rock music sounds noisy.


The predicate adjective usually follows one of these:

appears, appear, appeared	remain, remains, remained
continues, continue, continued	seems, seem, seemed
feels, feel, felt	smells, smell, smelled
grows, grow, grew, grown	sounds, sound, sounded
keeps, keep, kept	stays, stay, stayed
looks, look, looked	tastes, taste, tasted
proves, prove, proved	turns, turn, turned

The verb "seems" can be substituted to test for a predicate adjective. (These verbs may be **action** or **linking**, depending on the meaning/usage.)