

English Grammar: Sentence Complements Study Guide

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Lesson 1 – Three Kinds of Verbs

Exercise 1

Directions: In each of the following sentences, a verb is underlined. For each verb, decide whether it is being used in the sentence as a transitive verb, an intransitive verb, or a linking verb.

1. The author Erle Stanley Gardner wrote a number of books using the pen name A.A. Fair.
2. Upon closer examination, several spokes of the bicycle's rear wheel appeared broken.
3. Yvonne and Sasha danced together until two o'clock, when the band finally stopped playing.
4. Even by modern engineering standards, the pyramids of Egypt remain an incredible achievement.
5. Working with extreme care, the bomb squad removed the suspicious package.

Lesson 2 – Direct Objects

Exercise 2

Directions: In some of the following sentences, a direct object appears. Read each sentence and circle the verb. Then underline the direct object of the verb, if any.

1. The voters in Lincoln County have selected Anderson for the state legislature four times in a row.
2. General Sullivan led a fascinating tour of the historic Civil War battlefield in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.
3. Paula exercised in the weight room at the local gymnasium three times a week this past summer.
4. The theories of Isaac Newton revolutionized physics and astronomy.
5. Benjamin Franklin's first job was working as an apprentice in a printing shop.

Lesson 3 – Indirect Objects

Exercise 3

Directions: In some of the following sentences, an indirect object appears. Read each sentence and circle the verb. Then underline the indirect object of the verb, if any.

1. Moesha wrote her grandmother a long letter thanking her for the birthday gift.
2. After two days of debate, the town council awarded the road maintenance contract to a company owned by several local citizens.
3. Every evening, Richard and Emily cooked us a wonderful meal, using fresh ingredients from the local farm stands.
4. Each candidate prepared a written statement for the selection committee.
5. Two minutes before game time, the coach gave her players a final reminder about the crucial importance of teamwork.

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Lesson 4 – Subject Complements

Exercise 4

Directions: In some of the following sentences, a subject complement appears. Read each sentence and circle the verb. Then underline the subject complement, if any.

1. The original nickname of the Houston Astros baseball team was the Colt 45s.
2. Many investors use mutual funds as a way of buying shares in a wide range of companies.
3. After being reupholstered, the wing chair looked new.
4. Ronald Reagan became the oldest person ever to serve as president of the United States.
5. The hikers were exhausted and ravenous after their trek up Mount Washington.