

English Grammar: Sentence Complements Study Guide

by
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Roslyn Heights, New York

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English Grammar: Sentence Complements

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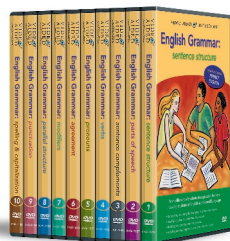
isbn 1-57385-103-5 · upc 600459103590

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Introduction

Video Aided Instruction's English Grammar Series makes the tricky rules of English grammar easier to learn than ever before – whether you're new to English or you've been speaking it for years!

Complements perform a crucial task in our sentences – they help us connect our ideas together when we describe our subjects and their actions. With this user-friendly program, you'll learn about the different kinds of sentence complements and how they work with subjects and verbs to complete your thoughts!

Before you begin studying, let us make a few recommendations. First, have a notebook and pen ready so you're prepared to take notes. You'll probably want to use the many on-screen graphics to take notes for yourself – when you're done, you'll have a notebook on English grammar that you can refer back to again and again.

Secondly, don't forget to take advantage of your "pause" button while viewing the program. This will allow you to try to complete the exercises in this study guide before you view the answers on-screen.

Finally, don't try to absorb too much at one time. By viewing the program over a number of short sessions (instead of all at once), you'll stay "fresher" and retain more of what you learn. And don't forget: you can review the entire program, or specific sections, as many times as you need to!

Now you can eliminate embarrassing mistakes from your speaking and writing forever. Let Video Aided Instruction be your guide!

About the Author

Karl Weber, M.A., is a professional writer, editor, and teacher. He is the author of two popular series of test prep guidebooks, and has worked on books with such noted personalities as former President Jimmy Carter, Ambassador Richard Butler, and U.S. Representative Dick Gephardt.

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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.