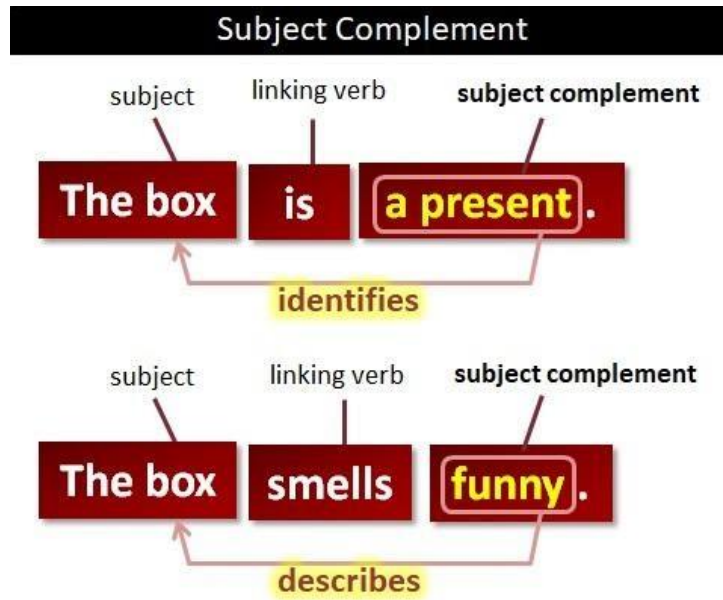


Introduction

A subject complement is a noun, adjective or pronoun that follows a linking verb. Therefore, this is the link between the subject and the verb. Examples of this are words such as, was, is, are, being, am, been, and so forth. Furthermore, a complement completes the verb as it flows the verb, specifically when sentences are in active voice. A subject complement is a word or phrase that follows a verb and identifies or describes the subject. A subject complement can be an adjective, noun, or pronoun.



Grammar monster: https://www.grammar-monster.com/glossary/subject_complement.htm 29 April 2020

This video explains the concept further:



<https://youtu.be/rDcBSvWBW0U>

Learning Content

In a more general sense, complements are words that are needed to complete the meaning of an expression. Most phrases and clauses will include a complement of some kind. If you cannot remove it from your sentence, then it's likely to be a complement. This is how complements differ from adjuncts. Adjuncts are optional as they are usually just descriptive. Complements are not optional. They are essential to ensure understanding.

The word complement most commonly crops up in the terms subject complement and object complement. A subject complement is the adjective, noun, or pronoun that follows a linking verb. Examples of linking verbs include to be, to smell, to seem, to taste, to look. Here are two easy examples of subject complements.

Lee is weak.

“Lee” is the subject, “is” is the linking verb, and the adjective “weak” is the subject complement. It tells us something about the subject. It completes the meaning.

John was a chicken.

“John” is the subject, “was” is the linking verb, and the noun phrase “a chicken” is the subject complement. It tells us something about the subject. It completes the meaning. An object complement, on the other hand, is the adjective, noun, or pronoun that follows a direct object to rename the direct object or state what it has become.

Here are two easy examples of object complements.

The vote made John's position untenable.

Here, “John's position” is the direct object of the verb “made”, and the adjective “untenable” is the object complement that completes its meaning. The adjective “untenable” tells us something about the direct object, or “John's position”. It can't be removed because it completes its meaning. It is necessary. Here is another example of an object complement.

We voted John chairman.

Here, “John” is the direct object of the verb “voted”, and the noun “chairman” is the object complement that completes the meaning. The noun “chairman” tells us something about the direct object, “John”. It can't be removed because it completes the meaning.

Grammar Monster. n.d. What are complements? <https://www.grammar-monster.com/glossary/complement.htm> (Accessed 29 April 2020).

This power point presentation will give you more information on complements:

[Complements.pdf](#)

Summary

As we have seen, complements are necessary for meaning. They either serve to complement the subject or object of any given sentence, and can be nouns, pronouns, or adjectives.