

LINKING VERBS

Linking verbs express 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.)