

I'm not a robot



























I am not sure whether I understand your question. The grammar terms you have in your head line are parts of a sentence, with the exception of "verb". Verb is a word class, but it is often also used in analysing the parts of a sentence. You can call these "things" parts of a sentence, elements of a sentence or components of a sentence, it is all the same. I'm not quite sure, but I think the linguistic term constituents is also used for parts of a sentence, but it is not a term of traditional grammar. Discussion of the term verb. As verb is primarily a word class (often also called "parts of speech", rather a vague term) one should have an unambiguous term for verb as part of the sentence. But there is not yet an accepted term. I often use VE (verbal element). Subject "Many critics" - Refers to the group of people who performed the action of criticism. Verb "criticised" - The action verb indicating the act of expressing disapproval or judgment. Object "the play" - Specifies what was criticised, indicating the subject of the criticism. Subject "Many critics" - Refers to a group of individuals who provide evaluations or assessments. In this sentence, "many critics" are the ones who performed the action of criticism. Verb "criticised" - This action verb indicates the act of expressing disapproval, judgment, or negative assessment about something. Object "the play" - Specifies what was criticised. It indicates the subject of the criticism. In this case, the play that was reviewed or evaluated by the critics. am not sure whether I understand your question. The grammar terms you have in your head line are parts of a sentence, with the exception of "verb". Verb is a word class, but it is often also used in analysing the parts of a sentence. You can call these "things" parts of a sentence, elements of a sentence or components of a sentence, it is all the same. I'm not quite sure, but I think the linguistic term constituents is also used for parts of a sentence, but it is not a term of traditional grammar. Discussion of the term verb. As verb is primarily a word class (often also called "parts of speech", rather a vague term) one should have an unambiguous term for verb as part of the sentence. But there is not yet an accepted term. I often use VE (verbal element). Every sentence in English follows a certain pattern. There are several sentence patterns in English. A decent understanding of these structures will help you to express your ideas in several different ways. Subject + verb + object + complement After some verbs an object alone does not make complete sense. In addition to the object, we need another word to complete the meaning. The word thus used to complete the meaning of the object is called its complement. Subject Transitive verb Object Object complement The noise drove him mad. That case made the lawyer famous. He painted the wall green. We found the house empty. I thought the plan unwise. We consider the matter very important The object complement is usually an adjective or a noun phrase. After verbs that refer to thoughts, feelings and opinions (e.g. believe, consider, feel, know, find, think and understand) to be is sometimes used before the complement. I consider the plan to be unwise. Most people supposed him to be innocent. They have proved themselves to be worthy of our trust. I knew him to be conscientious. After consider, it is possible to drop to be before adjectives, and sometimes before nouns. I considered him an excellent choice. OR I considered him an excellent choice. "All my life the early sun has hurt my eyes, he thought. Yet they are still good. In the morning I can look straight into it without getting any darkness. It has no force in the evening any more. But in the morning it is painful. Just then he saw a man-of-war with its long black wings circling in the sky ahead of him. He made a quick drop, slanting down on his back-swept wing and then circled again." (Hemingway) Sentences are building blocks of writing. A sentence is not just group of words that begins with a capital letter and ends with a period. A sentence must have three essential elements: subject verb thought complement (objects and complements) To improve your writing, it is very important to recognize these three elements in a sentence. Verbs A verb is a part of speech that expresses an action or a state of being. If you are not sure which word is a verb, try changing the sentence in time. Add yesterday, today, or tomorrow in front of the sentence. The word that changes is a verb. Remember that some sentences have more than one verbs. e.g. In the summer, Brian lives with his father. (today) In the summer, Brian lived with his father. (yesterday) In the summer, Brian will live with his father. (tomorrow) Since the only word that changes is "live," it is the verb of the sentence. By form, verbs can be (1) simple, (2) compound, or (3) phrasal. 1. A simple verb - consists of a single verb. e.g. He sleeps well. Kids play in the garden. Students work hard to succeed. 2. A verb phrase - consists of a helping verb(s) + an action verb (continuous, perfect, and perfect-continuous tenses and passive voice). e.g. He has been sleeping for a few hours. Kids are playing. Students have worked hard to succeed. Remember: that each verb phrase has only one action verb at the end, but it may consist of more than one helping verbs. 3. A compound verb - consists of 2≥ verbs or verb phrases joined with a coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS). e.g. Brian took the sack and opened the top. He has worked hard but is still poor. Remember: When two or more verbs are joined with a coordinating conjunction, they function as ONE COMPOUND VERB in a sentence. So, both sentences above have one subject and one verb. By nature, verbs can be (1) action, (2) linking, or (3) helping. 1. An action verb expresses action. e.g. He jumps. Kids are playing. He has finished the work. 2. A helping verb is used to build verb phrases (tense and passive voice). Two helping verbs are be (am/is/are/was/were) and have (has/had). e.g. He would normally have said "no." Remember: In the verb phrase "would have said," the action verb is "said," and two helping verbs are "would" and "have." 3. A linking verb doesn't have any action meaning and serves to connect the subject with what is said about it. Common linking verbs are be (am/is/are/was/were), become, get, seem, and wear, smell, taste, among others. e.g. They are smart. It is getting dark. It seems right. Remember: In the verb phrase "is getting," the linking verb is "getting," and the helping verb is "is." Subjects Once you have identified the verb, you can ask the "who" and "what" questions in relation to the verb. The subject is the word or words that answer the question: "who" or "what" the action of the verb does. If the verb of a sentence expresses action, the subject is who or what the verb does. If the verb is linking, the subject is who or what the verb describes. Similar to verbs, subjects can also take different forms: 1. A simple subject - consists of a single noun or pronoun. e.g. People are curious by nature. They enjoy asking questions. 2. A noun phrase - consists of one noun/pronoun and all descriptive words. e.g. Many young adults attended the lecture. Very early in the morning, the exhausted man was awake and back to writing. Remember: you will need to find a SIMPLE SUBJECT for your subject-verb agreement. 3. A compound subject - consists of 2≥ nouns/pronouns/noun phrases joined with a coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS). e.g. Very often, animals and their trainers don't need words to understand each other. Remember: When two or more nouns or noun phrases are joined with a coordinating conjunction, they function as ONE COMPOUND SUBJECT in a sentence. It is incorrect to say that two subjects form a compound subject. The above sentence has one subject "animals and their trainers." 4. A noun clause can be the subject of the independent clause. For more information on Noun clauses, go to the handout: Noun Clause. Remember: If the subject of a sentence is a Noun clause, the verb is always singular. Thought Completers The last requirement of a sentence is having a complete thought. You may notice that most English sentences have three required fields. The first field always fills with a verb. The second field requires a subject, and the third field requires a complement which can take different forms depending on the nature of the verb. In English, the subject structure is S (subject) + V (verb) + C (complement) and the V (verb) + C (complement) are (subject+verb+adverbial). Types of Thought Completers: 1. A Verb Complement is a noun/pronoun that follows an action verb and answers the questions what/who or to/for whom/what. A direct object (DO) is the noun/pronoun that receives an action and answers the questions what/who. An indirect object (IO) identifies to or for whom the action of the verb is performed. e.g. The teacher gave students (IO) the results (DO) of the test. Remember: The most common word order in English is S+V+IO+DO. 2. A Subject Complement is usually an adjective or a noun that follows a linking verb and renames or defines the subject. e.g. It is getting dark. That lady is a doctor. 3. An Adverbial of 1. Time, 2. Place, and 3. Manner is an adverb or an adverbial phrase that follows both action and linking verbs and answers the questions when, where, or how. e.g. He came home. He came on time. He speaks fast. Remember: Prepositional phrases often work as adverbials. Writing Tips When overused, simple sentences make writing look choppy and prevent ideas from running smoothly. It is very important to know how to use simple sentences effectively. Use prepositional phrases to express a single idea more efficiently. Use a lot of adjectives and adverbs to make your writing more descriptive. Use a variety of sentence structures. This lesson will help you understand different types of complements in English, their usages, and how to identify them. In English, a complement is a word or a group of words that completes the meaning of a part of the sentence. It is essential to the meaning of the part it complements; it is needed to render the meaning the sentence intends to give. There are different types of complements in English: Subject complement Object complement Adjective complement Verb complement Adverbial complement Subject complement definition: A subject complement is a word or a group of words (phrase or clause) that either renames the subject or modifies it. It comes after a linking verb and identifies the subject. When it renames the subject, we call it a "nominative" complement, and an adjective as an object complement modifies it. The company just made Ron our team leader.(In this sentence, 'our team leader' is the object complement (noun phrase) that's renaming the object 'him'. Ron = our team leader )The students elected him the class monitor.(Here, the object complement 'the class monitor' is a noun phrase that's modifying the object 'him'. Him = the class monitor) In these examples, the object complement is either a noun or a noun phrase. But it can be a noun clause too. I will call you whatever I want. 'You whatever I want' Talking to Jane makes me happy.(Here, the object complement 'happy' is an adjective that's modifying the object 'me'. Me = happy) You proved us wrong again. ('Wrong' is the object complement here that's modifying the object 'me'. Us = wrong) NOTE: an object complement as an adjective can't be an adjective clause. Click here to master an adjective clause. Click here to master an object complement. An adjective complement is a phrase or a clause that completes the meaning of an adjective by giving more information about it. The information helps the readers or listeners to understand the situation better. So, the information it provides is necessary in order to complete the meaning of the adjective. Click here to master an adjective complement. Points to note: An adjective complement is more than a word: a phrase or a clause. It comes right next to an adjective. It sits right next to an adjective. The following 3 things can function as an adjective complement in a sentence: Prepositional phrase Infinitive phrase Noun clause A prepositional phrase often functions as an adjective complement in a sentence. As an adjective complement, it sits next to an adjective and provides more information about the adjective. This piece of information it provides helps the readers or listeners to understand the context in a better way. Prepositional phrases are formed by using a preposition and its object (noun, noun phrase, noun clause, pronoun). I am mad about your score. Here, 'about your score' is a prepositional phrase that's working as an adjective complement. It's coming next to the adjective 'mad' and giving useful information about it. If we ended the sentence with the adjective 'happy', we wouldn't have more clarity about the sentence. We wouldn't know what the speaker is mad about. Examples: I am concerned about your health. We are happy about what happened last night. Sam is dedicated to this project. When an infinitive phrase functions as an adjective complement, it talks about the reason for the adjective (state). I am happy to see you again. 'To see you again' is an infinitive phrase that's coming next to the adjective 'happy' and telling us the reason for this state of sentiment. It completes the meaning of the adjective by telling us why the speaker is happy. If it weren't there, we wouldn't know why the speaker is happy. This completely changes the meaning of the sentence. Examples: They were shocked to see me. Nancy was scared to lose me. I was not hesitant to leave the job for my values. It is absolutely silly to argue with them. A noun clause is a dependent clause that functions as a noun in a sentence. Noun clauses often start with the following subordinating conjunctions: what, who, whom, that, where, why, when, and how. But note that noun clauses, here, do not function as a noun; they just give information about an adjective and complete its meaning. It is evident that she is angry with us. Here, the noun clause is giving more information about the adjective 'evident' and telling us what is evident. It actually shouldn't be called a noun clause here as it's functioning as a noun; it is functioning as a modifier: giving information about an adjective. Examples: It is disappointing that you are still working there. It is evident that she is dying. I am delighted that all my students have passed the exams. We were shocked when he came back to our team. A verb complement is usually an object that comes after a verb and completes its meaning. Without the verb complement, the sentence stops giving the same meaning and looks incomplete. This sentence is incomplete without mentioning the object of the verb. Reading the sentence, you are forced to think about what I need. Let's complete the sentence using some verb complements. Corrections (with verb complements): I need money. I need your number. I need some of your workers at my wedding. I need a glass of water. Now, after adding the object of the verb 'need', the sentence makes sense. The object here is completing the meaning of the verb. More examples of verb complements: Let's pursue this course. You just can't pursue. You need something to pursue. Without the complement (object) of the verb 'pursue', the sentence doesn't make complete sense. Here, the object 'this course' is a complement to the verb and completes the meaning of the verb. I hope that you win this competition. Here, the noun clause coming after the verb 'hope' is its complement. You don't just hope; you hope something. Here, the noun clause is the verb's complement. Without the complement, the sentence (I hope) looks incomplete. We enjoyed watching this show. You only see what you need something to enjoy. This verb is incomplete without it. Here, 'watching this show' (the complement to the verb 'enjoy') is the complement to the verb 'enjoy'. Try reading it without the complement: we enjoyed. It doesn't look complete, does it? A verb complement can be the subject of a sentence. Noun or noun phrase Pronoun Gerund or gerund phrase Infinitive or infinitive phrase Noun clause Click here to master a verb complement in English. A noun or a noun phrase often works as the object of a verb. Here are some examples: Some of us are training kids to be fighters. I don't have money to spend. A pronoun can also be an object of the verb. Here are some examples: I have never seen him. Nobody has touched you inappropriately. A gerund or a gerund phrase can also receive the main verb directly. Here are some examples: My friend Monu loves playing with kids. We regret asking you for help. An infinitive can also be an object of a verb. You can use it with all action verbs; there are some verbs that can be used only with infinitives. Examples: I like to sing sometimes. Your friends want to come to my party. A noun clause is a dependent clause that functions as a noun. It can also act as the object of a verb. Here are some examples: I know that you want me to lose. Nobody could imagine that you would lose the fight in the first round. An adverbial complement is an adverb or an adverbial that completes the meaning of a verb. It helps the sentence renders the meaning it intends to give. Taking an adverbial complement out of a sentence changes the core meaning of the sentence; it takes an essential part of the sentence, unlike an adjunct. It is a type of verb complement as it helps to complete the meaning of the verb. Examples: Here, the adverb 'here' is a complement to the verb 'coming'. You don't just come; you come to a place. So, mentioning the place is important. The place has to be combined with the verb. Taking the verb complement makes it sound incomplete (I love coming). When you look at this sentence without the adverb, the question 'where' organically comes to your mind. Don't aim for a money fight. 'For a money fight' is the adverbial complement here. It is a prepositional phrase that is complementing the verb and helping it complete the correct meaning of the sentence. When used as an intransitive verb, it is followed by a prepositional phrase starting with either 'for' or 'at'. We are aiming at the manager's post. When you aim at something, you plan to achieve it. Without using the prepositional phrase starting (at + object), this meaning can't be delivered. Without the verb complement (We are aiming), the sentence is incomplete and does not render the intended meaning. A phrasal verb is a combination of an action verb and a preposition. The preposition in the phrasal verbs changes the meaning of the verb. The phrasal verb often has a different meaning from the verb alone. Here are some common phrasal verbs in English: Pass out Break up Look up Get through Go after Notice that the first word in these phrases is an action and the next word/s is a preposition. Let's look at some examples using these phrasal verbs: You will pass out before the test. I can't break up with her. We look up to your father. You will get through this problem. The police are going after you. The preposition in these phrasal verbs is the adverbial complement. Try reading these sentences without the preposition. The sentences stop making sense or give a completely different meaning without the preposition. Find all types of complements in the following sentences: You seem dedicated. I have never seen a ghost in my life. I am happy to see you again. Don't put this on. The food you cooked last night tasted amazing. We admire your efforts. You can't call me your friend. My parents named him Papaya. Don't look up. I was never your enemy. Answers: Subject complement = dedicated Object complement = a ghost Subject complement = happy, Adjective complement = to see you again Adverbial complement = on Subject complement = amazing Verb complement = your efforts Verb complement = me, Object complement = your friend Verb complement = him, Object complement = Papaya Adverbial complement = up Subject complement = your enemy Hope you enjoyed the lesson. Feel free to ask your questions or doubts in the comment section. Do share the lesson with others to help them. Have a question or need deeper clarity? Drop it in the comments — I personally answer your questions/doubts. If you found this lesson valuable, share it with peers or learners who will benefit. Let's raise the standard of how we learn English — together. Looking for personalised coaching to elevate your English, communication, and life skills? Offer 1-on-1 mentorship that integrates advanced English fluency, business confidence building, and personality development — designed to help you grow not just as a speaker, but as a powerful individual. Reach out at [email protected] on YouTube and Instagram, we break down real conversations, dive into pop culture, share quick grammar hacks, and do the things your textbook never could. Follow now, and start learning smarter. Share, copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt, remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. I am not sure whether I understand your question. The grammar terms you have in your head line are parts of a sentence, with the exception of "verb". Verb is a word class, but it is often also used in analysing the parts of a sentence. You can call these "things" parts of a sentence, elements of a sentence or components of a sentence, it is all the same. I'm not quite sure, but I think the linguistic term constituents is also used for parts of a sentence, but it is not a term of traditional grammar. Discussion of the term verb. As verb is primarily a word class (often also called "parts of speech", rather a vague term) one should have an unambiguous term for verb as part of the sentence. But there is not yet an accepted term. I often use VE (verbal element). This chapter is going to teach you how to identify objects, adverbial, or complements with 100% accuracy. FIRST PROCESS The first process is to understand the relationship between transitive, intransitive, and linking verbs with the object or adverb/adverbial or prepositional phrases. If we can understand the relationship, we will be able to identify objects and adverbial with 100% accuracy. The object receives the action of the verb. It means that an object has an action verb; an object is preceded by an action verb. But the problem is that not all action verbs have objects. Action verbs that have objects are called transitive verbs. The action verbs which do not have objects are called intransitive verbs. A transitive verb cannot generate clear thought unless it exerts its action on a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase. This noun, pronoun, or noun phrase is an object. It means a transitive verb cannot function without a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase called an object. But an intransitive verb or linking verb cannot have an object. Look at the examples below where we can see how the verbs exert their actions on objects and how the objects receive the actions from the verbs: I hit him. He kicks the ball. I eat rice. I love her. All the verbs in bold are transitive verbs or action verbs because the actions of these verbs have receivers which are a pronoun, a noun phrase, a noun, and a pronoun respectively. So, when the action of a verb has a receiver, the verb is an action verb and the receiver is the object. In the first sentence, my hitting has a receiver and that is the pronoun "him". If we exclude "him" from the sentence, the sentence will remain incomplete. Similarly, the verb "kicks," "eat," and "love," have their receivers such as "the ball" (noun phrase), "rice" (noun), and "her" (pronoun) respectively. Therefore, the objects of the verbs, the above-mentioned sentence will end up in fragmented ones. But an intransitive verb, in general, is not followed by a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase. So, you cannot imagine an answer that mentions a noun or pronoun, or noun phrase. It can only be followed by an adverb or adverbial phrase or prepositional phrase to add to the thought which is being described. He runs fast. The sun rises in the East. It rained heavily. The words in bold are adverbs or adverbial phrases. If you do not find any noun, pronoun, or noun phrase after the action verb, it means that the action verbs are intransitive ones. Intransitive verbs, in general, are followed by prepositions, adverbs, or another clause to provide more information. So, now, you can easily identify the transitive and intransitive verbs. At the same time, you can understand that only transitive verbs have objects; intransitive verbs might have adverbs or adverbial/prepositional phrases. You can also identify whether there is an object in the sentence by asking the verb two questions: "what?" and "whom." If the verb responds to any one of these two questions, the verb is a transitive verb. Look at the examples below: I write a letter. (write what?) I love her. (love whom?) The sun rises in the East. (rises where) He went to Khulna. (went where?) He drives slowly. (drives how?) In the above examples, "write" and "love" are transitive verbs because they respond to "what?" and "where?" respectively. But "rises," "went" and "drives" are not transitive verbs because they do not respond to "what" and "where" questions. They have responded to "where?" and "how?" questions respectively. So, though they are action verbs, they are not transitive verbs. They are intransitive verbs. Now we can look at linking verbs. Linking verbs are not action verbs. They don't carry any action; they simply make a relationship between subject and complement, be it a predicative noun, pronoun, or adjective. So, when it is a linking verb, you do not need to ask the questions "what?" and "whom." Linking verbs just give extra information about the subject. Look at the examples below: My name is John. He is happy. It is she. So, a linking verb simply gives information about a subject by connecting the subject with a predicative adjective or predicative noun. They do not describe direct any action taken by the subject. This predicative noun or adjective is a complement, because it completes the meaning of the verb. The first process is to identify the verb in the sentence and then ask the verb two questions: "what?" and "whom?" If you find an answer in response to any one of the two questions, it means that there is an object in the sentence. Let's find out verbs in the following sentences and ask them "what?" and "whom?" I eat rice. I love her. He writes a letter. John helps the poor man. I kick the ball. I hit the table. The words in bold are objects because if we go to ask the verb "what?" and "whom?", we will find answers from each verb. What do I eat? The answer is I eat rice. As we have got the answer, "rice" is the object. Whom do I love? I love her. So, the verb gives the answer to the question of whom. So, "her" is the object of the verb "love." Similarly, "a letter", "the poor man", "the ball" and "the table" are objects because their verbs give answers to the questions "what?" and "whom?" Now, look at the following examples where verbs cannot give answers to the questions "what?" and "whom?" Therefore, the word or group of words preceded by the verb is a complement. He sleeps. It rained. He sleeps in the morning. (time) It rained heavily. (degree) He runs fast. (degree) The sun rises in the East. (place) He went to the university. (place) Here, the words in bold are not objects because their verbs cannot respond to the questions "what?" and "whom?" When does he sleep? The answer is "in the morning." How did it rain? It rained heavily. How does he run? The answer is he runs fast. Where does the sun rise? The sun rises in the East. Where did he go? He went to the university. So, the words in bold are not objects because the verbs have given answers to the questions "how?", "when?" and "where?" not "what?" and "whom?" They are adverbials. Adverbials are used to describe the place, time, reason, purpose, result, condition, direction, degree, and method. Adverbials are adverbs, infinitives, phrases, and clauses. They are used to give further information or explanation. They can sit immediately after the transitive verbs. Or, they can sit after the object or complement. Their main task is to provide more information. But complement is used to complete a sentence. Now, you can understand the difference between object and complement. Object and complement are inseparable from the sentence. If you separate the object or complement from the sentence, your sentence will be incomplete. But you can separate adverbials (adverb, adverbial/prepositional phrases) which are definitely preceded by any intransitive verb. But linking verbs are always followed by complement. They can be noun predicates; they can be adjective predicates. Surely, you have understood the difference between complement and object. At the same time, you have understood the presence of adverbials—adverb, adverbial/prepositional phrases. EXERCISE Discuss elaborately what you have understood about the object. Explain the difference between object and adverbial. What is a complement? Discuss elaborately what you have understood about transitive, intransitive, and linking verbs. Write an email to know the admission procedure at Oxford University Tags Complete Grammar Grammar The main two parts of a sentence are the subject and predicate, with the subject identifying whom or what the sentence is about and the predicate giving more information about the subject. The elements within the predicate adding more detail or meaning, are verbs, direct objects, indirect objects, and subject complements.We'll now look at each of these in more detail. Subject The subject of a sentence is the person, place, or thing that the sentence is about. If it comes before a state verb (e.g. is, see, smell) it tells us whom or what is in that state of being.It is usually a noun or pronoun and can also include modifying words, phrases or clauses. Here are some examples of subjects in a sentence: The woman...Cars...The boy in the red coat... (includes modifying phrase) Predicate While the subject is what the sentence is about, the predicate is what is being said about the subject. It will always include a verb but will usually also include other elements. So these are what it will/always include:VerbDirect ObjectIndirect Object + Direct ObjectObject + Object ComplementSubject ComplementIn the examples below, the predicate is in bold. The woman is hot.Cars are blocking all the parking spaces.The boy in the red coat is trying to find his toy.She is a police officer. Predicates as parts of a sentence can get a little more complex than this as there can be predicates within predicates when there are other clauses in the sentence (the ones above have just one clause) and there are also compound predicates. Objects The predicate always includes and starts with a verb, but it may also be followed by objects. Direct Object A direct object is the receiver of the action within a sentence, and it is usually a noun or pronoun. They are used with action verbs and are shown below in bold: He built a cottageThe horse jumped the fenceHe ate some dinnerI hit him The complete predicate in this case is "built a cottage" and so on. Indirect Object Indirect objects can only be in a sentence if there is also a direct object. They indicate to whom or for whom the action of the sentence is being done. Again, the indirect object is usually a noun or pronoun.They are shown below in bold (the direct object is now the last noun). He built his family a cottageShe bought them some presentsHe gave his girlfriend a kiss The complete predicate in this case is "built his family a cottage" and so on. Learn more about the difference between direct and indirect objects. Object Complement Object complements provide more information about or describe the direct object, and they can be nouns or adjectives. He built the house shoddily. Exciting films make me happy.The students elected John as president of the student's union. So to take the first one, the direct object is 'the house' and it is being described as 'shoddily built'.The complete predicate is: "built the house shoddily". Subject Complement It was explained above that objects are used with action verbs. However, for state verbs (verbs that describe a state of being e.g. is, see, hear, feel etc) subject complements follow the verb. A subject complement either renames or identifies the subject by including a noun - predicate nominative - or describes the subject by having an adjective - predicate adjective. John is a really nice personShe seems happyI was impressed by the film The complete predicate in this case is "is a really nice person" and so on. Parts of a Sentence Summary The parts of a sentence can be divided into two main parts:Subject: who or what the sentence is aboutPredicate: what is being said about the subjectThe predicate will start with a verb and could have various other elements:verb + indirect object/direct object/object complement/subject complementJoin Us and get Free Grammar Tips into your Inbox! New! Comments Any questions or comments about the grammar discussed on this page?Post your comment here. A complement is a phrase or clause that is added to another constituent to complete latter's meaning. In grammar, we broadly have four complements: noun complement, adjective complement, verb complement, and prepositional complement. Their three are sometimes obligatory for their constituent to make sense - and sometimes not. Hence, they're more confusing than preposition complement, which is always obligatory. This post covers one of the four complements, verb complement.A verb complement completes the meaning of its verb. Since verb complements vary with the type of verb, we'll cover them under the four types of verb:Linking (or copular) verbMono-transitive verbComplex transitive verbDi-transitive verbNote that intransitive verbs don't require complementation and hence are not in the list.Linking verbs come in two sentence patterns: Subject-Verb-Complement (SVC) and Subject-Verb-Adverbial (SVA).In SVC pattern, the verb is complemented by subject complement (C in SVC), which can be a noun phrase, an adjective phrase, or a noun clause. Examples:The singer became a global sensation. [Noun phrase]The professor is an expert in quantum physics. [Noun phrase]The movie was surprisingly good. [Adjective phrase]The proposal seems incredibly risky. [Adjective phrase]The reality is that the situation is beyond control now. [Noun clause]The government's concern is how the new policy would be implemented. [Noun clause]Note: Some grammar books use the term complement clause in place of noun clause. (They're one and the same.) In those books, verb-complement clause (or clause that complements verb) is nothing but the noun clause shown in examples above and elsewhere in this post.In SVA pattern, the verb is complemented by an adverbial (A in SVA), mainly of space and time. In such use, linking verb is mostly be. Examples:The car is in the garage. [Adverbial of space]My study room is upstairs. [Adverbial of space]The concert is next Saturday. [Adverbial of time]Note: The adverbial in SVA pattern is also called adverbial complement. It's not another complement beyond the four mentioned in the opening paragraph. It's just a name given to one of the verb complements. It also includes the adverbial in SVOA pattern, covered later in the post.Mono-transitive verbs come in the sentence pattern Subject-Verb-Object (SVO), where object is direct object. The verb is complemented by direct object, which can be a noun phrase, a gerund phrase, an infinitive phrase, or a noun clause. Examples:We enjoyed the party. [Noun phrase]The students enjoyed playing basketball after school. [Gerund phrase]He decided to sell his house. [Infinitive phrase]He learned where to find the best deals. [Wh-infinitive phrase]He admitted that he was wrong. [Noun clause]He didn't know what she wanted. [Noun clause]Complex transitive verbs come in two sentence patterns: Subject-Verb-Object-Complement (SVOC) and Subject-Verb-Object-Adverbial (SVOA), where object is direct object.In SVOC pattern, the verb is complemented by an object followed by its complement. (Both are required for complementation of verb. Try dropping one of them in the examples below.) Object is usually a noun phrase, and complement - also called object complement - a noun phrase or an adjective phrase.In the following examples, complement follows object (both have been underlined). Whereas object is a noun phrase in both, complement changes form (given in comments). The company named Sarah the new manager. [Noun phrase]The audience found the performance impressive. [Adjective phrase]In SVOA pattern, the verb is complemented by an object followed by predication adverbial. [Prepositional phrase]She stayed up late to finish her project. [Infinitive phrase]We heard the children laughing outside. [Participial phrase]She made him clean his room. [Bare infinitive]The artist painted a beautiful landscape in the studio.[The sentence is SVO - and not SVOA - type, with the adverbial in the studio optional. So, the complement of the verb is direct object + beautiful landscape. You can see optionality of the adverbial by dropping it and seeing the impact on meaning isn't much - only some information is lost - but impact of dropping adverbial in other four sentences is huge.]Di-transitive verbs come in Subject-Verb-Object-Object (SVOO) sentence pattern, where the first 'O' is indirect object and the second direct.In SVOO pattern, the verb is complemented by two objects. Whereas indirect object is usually an animate (having life) noun phrase, direct object can be noun phrase, infinitive phrase, or noun clause. In the following examples, direct object follows indirect object (both have been underlined). Whereas indirect object is a noun phrase in all, direct object changes form (given in comments).The teacher gave the student a book. [Noun phrase]The manager offered the employee a significant raise. [Noun phrase]We persuaded Sarah to join the team. [Infinitive phrase]The father taught his son how to ride a bike. [Wh-infinitive phrase]Sarah told me how she solved the problem. [Noun clause] Spelling - WJEC Punctuation - WJEC The main two parts of a sentence are the subject and predicate, with the subject identifying whom or what the sentence is about and the predicate giving more information about the subject. The elements within the predicate adding more detail or meaning, are verbs, direct objects, indirect objects, and subject complements.We'll now look at each of these in more detail. Subject The subject of a sentence is the person, place, or thing that the sentence is about. If it comes before an action verb (e.g. climb, eat, build, say etc) then it is the part of the sentence that shows whom or what is doing that action. If it comes before a state verb (e.g. is, see, smell) it tells us whom or what is in that state of being.It is usually a noun or pronoun and can also include modifying words, phrases or clauses. Here are some examples of subjects in a sentence: The woman...Cars...The boy in the red coat... (includes modifying phrase) Predicate While the subject is what the sentence is about, the predicate is what is being said about the subject. It will always include a verb but will usually also include other elements. So these are what it will/always include:VerbDirect ObjectIndirect Object + Direct ObjectObject + Object ComplementSubject ComplementIn the examples below, the predicate is in bold. The woman is hot.Cars are blocking all the parking spaces.The boy in the red coat is trying to find his toy.She is a police officer. Predicates as parts of a sentence can get a little more complex than this as there can be predicates within predicates when there are other clauses in the sentence (the ones above have just one clause) and there are also compound predicates. Objects The predicate always includes and starts with a verb, but it may also be followed by objects. Direct Object A direct object is the receiver of the action within a sentence, and it is usually a noun or pronoun. They are used with action verbs and are shown below in bold: He built a cottageThe horse jumped the fenceHe ate some dinnerI hit him The complete predicate in this case is "built a cottage" and so on. Indirect Object Indirect objects can only be in a sentence if there is also a direct object. They indicate to whom or for whom the action of the sentence is being done. Again, the indirect object is usually a noun or pronoun.They are shown below in bold (the direct object is now the last noun). He built his family a cottageShe bought them some presentsHe gave his girlfriend a kiss The complete predicate in this case is "built his family a cottage" and so on. Learn more about the difference between direct and indirect objects. Object Complement Object complements provide more information about or describe the direct object, and they can be nouns or adjectives. He built the house shoddily. Exciting films make me happy.The students elected John as president of the student's union. So to take the first one, the direct object is 'the house' and it is being described as 'shoddily built'.The complete predicate is: "built the house shoddily". Subject Complement It was explained above that objects are used with action verbs. However, for state verbs (verbs that describe a state of being e.g. is, see, hear, feel etc) subject complements follow the verb. A subject complement either renames or identifies the subject by including a noun - predicate nominative - or describes the subject by having an adjective - predicate adjective. John is a really nice personShe seems happyI was impressed by the film The complete predicate in this case is "is a really nice person" and so on. 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A subject complement either renames or identifies the subject by including a noun - predicate nominative - or describes the subject by having an adjective - predicate adjective. John is a really nice personShe seems happyI was impressed by the film The complete predicate in this case is "is a really nice person" and so on. Parts of a Sentence Summary The parts of a sentence can be divided into two main parts:Subject: who or what the sentence is aboutPredicate: what is being said about the subjectThe predicate will start with a verb and could have various other elements:verb + indirect object/direct object/object complement/subject complementJoin Us and get Free Grammar Tips into your Inbox! New! Comments Any questions or comments about the grammar discussed on this page?Post your comment here.

