SUBJECT COMPLEMENTS

Learning Outcome: Upon successful completion of this worksheet, students will be able to locate subject complements in sentences and identify whether they are nouns or adjectives.

Before you begin: If you need to refresh your memory about subjects, linking verbs, or subject complements please consult a handbook like Diana Hacker’s A Writer’s Reference here in the WRC or visit The Guide to Grammar at http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/index2.htm.

When you are done: Worksheets are designed to be a self-teaching opportunity. Therefore, we provide the answer keys so that, when you are done, you can check your answers. Should you want to consult with a professor on duty about your answers, please be sure to check your answers first.

Directions: A subject complement completes the meaning of the subject of a sentence. A subject complement follows a linking verb and is a noun or an adjective. For each sentence below, underline the complement, and identify it as a noun or adjective complement. (Note: You may find more than one complement in a sentence.) Hint: It is helpful to locate, and cross out, the prepositional phrases first because you will never find the subject of a sentence in a prepositional phrase.

Example: Abdul became an Olympic swimmer. (noun complement)

1. After a three-hour exam, I felt drowsy and hungry.

2. Three hours of homework are essential for every hour of class time in college.

3. A World of Ideas is the name of our English textbook.

4. The air smells fresh after the rain.

5. His fiancée is a police officer.

6. The puppy seems happy to be outside.

7. Luis felt overwhelmed by the new computer program.

OVER
8. Pilar’s new car is a Mazda MX5.
9. Santa Ana winds feel hot and dry.
10. The company president sounded confident during the press conference.
12. Patricia’s running shoes look brand new.
13. This sandwich tastes stale.
14. Zack’s hair became gray years ago.
15. That assignment was a challenge for all of us.
16. The clock in the library was incorrect.
17. Who will become the next president?
18. Coffee smells good but tastes bitter.
19. The line at the admissions office was long.
20. That house seems quite old.