

Predicate Nominatives and Predicate Adjectives A

13e. A *predicate nominative* is a word or word group that is in the predicate and that identifies the subject or refers to it.

EXAMPLES Leonardo da Vinci was a great **artist**.
He was not only an **artist** but also an **inventor**. [compound predicate nominative]

13f. A *predicate adjective* is an adjective that is in the predicate and that describes the subject.

EXAMPLES Leonardo da Vinci was highly **competent** in many fields.
How **talented** and **creative** this versatile man was! [compound predicate adjective]

EXERCISE A In the following sentences, circle the linking verb and underline each subject complement. Then, on the line provided, identify each subject complement as *PN* for *predicate nominative* or *PA* for *predicate adjective*.

Example PN 1. (Was) Enrico Caruso a famous tenor?

- _____ 1. The bag with the bowling ball in it felt heavy.
- _____ 2. Mrs. Kaufman is my favorite teacher.
- _____ 3. The dog seemed eager to see us.
- _____ 4. The best vegetable, in my opinion, is spinach.
- _____ 5. Our next-door neighbor is a teacher at the local high school and the coach of the football team.
- _____ 6. Even after a week, the cat remained aloof from the other pets in the house.
- _____ 7. That casserole certainly smells delicious!
- _____ 8. Isn't Sonya the lead singer for the band?
- _____ 9. Some Asian dishes are perhaps too hot and spicy for some people.
- _____ 10. Toni Morrison is the author of several novels, including *Beloved* and *Song of Solomon*.

EXERCISE B Each of the following sentences contains at least one subject complement. Underline each predicate nominative once and each predicate adjective twice.

Example 1. The test did not seem very difficult to us.

11. The Snapdragon is the fastest and most popular ride at the amusement park.
12. Does the pattern on this shirt seem faded to you?
13. The author Joseph Heller was a famous novelist.
14. Jorge's two favorite composers are Beethoven and Holst.
15. Will this energetic puppy ever become a calm pet?