

## 1 Here's the Idea

A subject and a verb alone often can't convey the whole meaning in a sentence. Many sentences require complements, words or word groups that follow the verb and complete its meaning. There are four types of complements: direct objects, objective complements, indirect objects, and subject complements.

### Direct and Indirect Objects

- ▶ **A direct object is a noun or pronoun that tells who or what receives the action of a verb.**

Nothing can escape a black hole.  
↑ DIRECT OBJECT

Sentences with direct objects may also have **indirect objects**, nouns or pronouns that tell to or for whom or what the action of the verb is done.

The Hubble telescope showed scientists an enormous black hole.  
INDIRECT OBJECT ↑ DIRECT OBJECT ↑

It offered them only a roundabout view, however.  
↑ INDIRECT OBJECT ↑ DIRECT OBJECT

Indirect objects never follow prepositions. A phrase that begins with *to* or *for* is a prepositional phrase, not an indirect object.

Pairs of orbiting stars gave the first clue to researchers.  
PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE ↑

Pairs of orbiting stars gave researchers the first clue.  
↑ INDIRECT OBJECT

### Objective Complements

- ▶ **An objective complement is a noun or adjective that follows the direct object and identifies or describes it.** Only certain verbs, and their synonyms, can be followed by objective complements.

#### Verbs That Signal Objective Complements

appoint	choose	elect	keep	name
call	consider	find	make	think

Over 1,500 species of fish call the Great Barrier Reef home.

DIRECT OBJECT

OBJECTIVE

COMPLEMENT—NOUN

Its colorful coral formations make the reef unique.

DIRECT OBJECT

OBJECTIVE COMPLEMENT

—ADJECTIVE

## Subject Complements

▶ A subject complement follows a linking verb and identifies or describes the subject. Linking verbs include *be* and sense verbs such as *feel*, *seem*, *consider*, *smell*, *sound*, and *taste*.

A subject complement may be either a predicate nominative or a predicate adjective.

A **predicate nominative** is a noun used as a subject complement.

The Amazon is a very wide river—over six miles in places.

PREDICATE NOMINATIVE

A **predicate adjective** is an adjective used as a subject complement.

In places, neither bank is visible from the middle of the river.

PREDICATE ADJECTIVE