Grammar: Complements

A **complement** completes something.

In a sentence, a complement is the word or words in the predicate that renames or describes the subject.

Complements follow **linking verbs**. Common linking verbs include the words am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been, seem, become, look, appear, taste, smell, sound, and feel.

Complements can be nouns or adjectives.

examples: Richard's new boat is a kayak.

is - linking verb

kayak - complement (a noun that renames the boat)

That bicycle looks too rusty to ride.

looks - linking verb

rusty - complement (an adjective that describes the bicycle)

Circle the linking verb in each sentence. Draw one line under the simple subject. Draw two lines under the complement.

- 1. Sunsets at the beach are remarkably beautiful.
- 2. Mr. Hernandez was our soccer coach.
- **3.** That soup tastes too salty.
- **4.** The new student seems shy.
- **5.** The evening clouds were gray.
- **6.** The waves are very choppy this morning.
- 7. The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.
- 8. I am a smart student!
- **9.** My favorite subject is history.
- **10.** That old sneaker smells moldy.

ANSWER KEY

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A **complement** completes something.

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Complements can be nouns or adjectives.

examples: Richard's new boat is a kayak.

is - linking verb

kayak - complement (a noun that renames the boat)

That bicycle looks too rusty to ride.

looks - linking verb

rusty - complement (an adjective that describes the bicycle)



- Sunsets at the beach are remarkably beautiful.
- 2. Mr. Hernandez (was) our soccer coach.
- That soup (tastes) too salty.
- **4.** The new <u>student</u> (seems) <u>shy</u>.
- 5. The evening <u>clouds</u> were <u>gray</u>.
- 6. The waves are very choppy this morning.
- 7. The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.
- 8. Iam a smart student!
- My favorite <u>subject</u> is <u>history</u>.
- **10.** That old <u>sneaker</u> (smells) <u>moldy</u>.