

The Subject Complement (SC)

The subject complement (SC) characterizes the subject. It follows the predicator containing a linking verb (copula) and completes the structure. It is in dependent relationship with the predicator and can be predicted from it. For example: Mary became does not make sense.

The predicator became is used here as a linking verb and as such it claims a subject complement to complete meaning.

impatient

Mary became angry

S	P	<u>a beauty</u>
		SC

Among LV-s can be considered the following: appear, be, become, come, feel, get, go, keep, lie, look, prove, remain, rest, seem, smell, sound, stay, stand, taste, turn etc.

the main principles of identifying the subject complement are:

- a) It is mainly represented by an adjective phrase or noun phrase.
- b) It normally follows the subject and predicator.
- c) The patterns containing a subject complement cannot undergo passive transformation.

Subject complement may be realized by:

1. Adjective phrases
2. Noun phrases
3. Adverbial and prepositional phrases
4. Infinitives of Infinitive clauses
5. Gerunds or Gerundial clauses
6. Finite clauses

1. Adjective phrases - are the most usual way of realizing the subject complement. The headword of an adjective phrase may be:

a) an adjective

The journey was quite pleasant.

It sounds absolutely wonderful.

b) a present participle

The speech sounds convincing.

The news was very disturbing.

She came running.

c) a past participle

The town appeared abandoned.

He stood surprised in front of the painting.

His mother felt worried.

2. Noun phrases-name the subject over again or in other words, has the same identity as subject.

The boy grew a strong young man.

Paul is a good student.

Noun phrases with a numeral sometimes occur as subject complement.

John arrived second.

He was twenty last month.

3. Adverbial and prepositional phrases-Occasionally the subject complement is realized by an adverbial or a prepositional phrase denoting a state.

Our vacation is almost over.

I am so so

The furniture in their office is in bad condition.

The negotiations are at a stand still.

4. Infinitives or Infinitive clauses-The infinitive occurring as subject complement explains the meaning of the subject of the sentence.

His wish is to stay.

My advice is to keep your mouth shut.

The job of a reporter is to expose and record.

5. Gerunds or Gerundial clauses:

Deciding is acting.

What her brother enjoys most is driving at top speed.

His job was tending a bar.

6. Finite clauses can often perform the function of the SC.

The trouble is that he has no money left.

The question is whether he could collect the necessary amount of the money in due time.

The Object Complement (OC)

The Object Complement is in dependent relationship with the predicator. Its position is immediately after the direct object with which it has the same identity. The object complement refers to the DO in a similar way as the SC refers to the subject of a sentence. The headword in the VP of the sentence must be a complex transitive verb. Some of such verbs are: Break, consider, elect, find, keep, make, name, point, set, turn.

The Object Complement(OC) is realized by:

1. Adjective phrases

2. noun phrases

3. prepositional phrases

4. Infinitives or Infinitive clauses

5. Participles or participial clauses

6. Finite noun clauses

1. Adjective Phrases

This coat will keep you warm.

OC

I find them reliable.

Worries turned his hair white.

2. Noun phrases

We consider him hers.

They chose her the beauty Queen.

The president made him his adviser.

3. Prepositional Phrases

She found him in despair.

We found the flat in good condition.

4. Infinitives or Infinitive clauses

I heard her sing

I watched her come downstairs

5. Participles or Participial clauses

We found her sitting on the porch.

I heard my name called twice.

6. Finite clauses

You may call it what you like.

He made his firm what it is today.