Objective Complements

An *objective complement* sometimes follows a direct object to complete the meaning of the verb. The objective complement, which can be an adjective or a noun, explains or renames the direct object, completing the thought of the sentence. It never appears in a prepositional phrase.

Notice how the objective complement *beautiful* is needed to complete this sentence; without the objective complement, the sentence would not make sense.

Most Americans find their home states beautiful.  not Most Americans find their home states.

An easy test can tell you if a word is an objective complement or not: insert *is* or *are* between the direct object and objective complement.

The senior class made Carl their president. (test: Carl is president.)

This vote of confidence made Carl happy. (test: Carl is happy.)

Sometimes sentences with direct objects and objective complements are confused with sentences with direct objects and indirect objects. Use the *is* or *are* test to tell the difference between an indirect object and an objective complement.

Amber gave Emily her pen to use in class. (test: Emily is pen. = does not make sense. Emily is an indirect object; pen is a direct object.)

We named Laina the reporter for our group. (test: Laina is reporter. = makes sense. Reporter is an objective complement following the direct object Laina.)

Hint: Certain specific verbs often require objective complements. When you see these verbs used, check to see if the sentence contains an objective complement: *make, consider, elect, name, appoint.*

Circle the direct objects in the following sentences. Underline the objective complements.

1. The early death of his father made Joash king at a very young age.
2. King Xerxes appointed Mordecai chief minister to the king after Haman’s death.
3. God called Jacob Israel after he wrestled with the angel.
4. Cain called his punishment greater than he could bear.
5. Readers of the Bible consider Esther faithful through difficult circumstances.
6. God called David a man after His own heart.

Identify each underlined complement: *predicate nominative (pn), predicate adjective (pa), direct object (do), indirect object (io), or objective complement (oc).*

7. _____ A hamster may run five miles on its wheel at night.
8. _____ King angelfish make the teeth of sharks clean by eating food from their teeth.
9. ____ Spring peepers are small tree frogs that give shrill calls in the springtime.
10. ____ The mother killdeer gives her babies protection by luring predators away.
11. ____ The king cobra may be eighteen feet long.
12. ____ Chinchillas, raised mainly in captivity, have very valuable fur.

Looking Back

Place quotation marks where they are needed in the dialogue.

13. Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye?
   They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth.
   Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye?
   And they said, Jesus of Nazareth.
   Jesus answered, I have told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way.

Underline the titles that need italics. Place quotation marks around the titles that need them.

14. Old Ironsides (a ship)
15. A Miserable, Merry Christmas (short story by Lincoln Steffens)
16. That's What Friends Are For (essay)
17. Madonna and Child (painting)

Follow the directions.

18. Write a sentence that uses well as an adverb.

19. Write a sentence that uses taste as a linking verb and includes a predicate adjective.

20. Write a sentence with an intransitive verb followed by an adverb.

Write a transition word to tie the ideas together.

21. To make these cookies, first you mix the sugar and eggs. ________________ sift in the flour.
22. Wisconsin has beautiful lake shores. ________________, many tourists enjoy visiting its cheese factories.
Underline the verbs. Write the tense of each.

23. ____________________ Tony has my sunglasses in his car.
24. ____________________ The clock is chiming eight o’clock right now.
25. ____________________ Elisha had been with Elijah only a short time before Elijah’s ascent into heaven.
26. ____________________ The spring festival will be happening on the second Saturday in June.

Circle the correct word.

27. Nathan did real, really good, well on his essay, especially considering the fact that he has always claimed he can’t write.
28. Janet felt some, somewhat better after hearing that her twin had also made a poor grade on the science test.

Diagram the sentences.

29. Although Daniel was sent to Babylon, he remained faithful to God.

30. Last Wednesday, Kaylene had an appointment with the orthodontist.
Diagramming Objective Complements

Place the objective complement on the horizontal line following the direct object. Draw a backward-slanted line between the direct object and the objective complement.

We named Laina the reporter for our group.

\[ \text{We named Laina the reporter for our group.} \]

The vote of confidence made Carl happy.

\[ \text{The vote of confidence made Carl happy.} \]

Diagram the sentences.

1. In 1944, Americans elected Franklin Roosevelt President for a fourth term.
2. The students consider their principal congenial.
3. Mr. Elliott named Jillian student of the week.
4. The early death of his father made Joash king at a very young age.
Planning and Developing a Paragraph

A good paragraph requires planning. After writing the topic sentence, you always need to add details. Deciding how to present these details can help you communicate your point clearly. You may choose one of several ways to add details to support your topic sentence.

1. **Examples.** If your topic sentence makes a claim, you can support it by giving examples of what you are talking about.

   Many prophecies given in the Old Testament are fulfilled in the New. For example, Isaiah prophesied the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ. The Book of Isaiah also includes the prophecy that Jesus would be cruelly killed, or “led as a lamb to the slaughter.” A third prophecy from Isaiah that was fulfilled in the New Testament has to do with John the Baptist: the “voice of one crying in the wilderness.”

2. **Description.** If the purpose of your paragraph is to describe, give details that show or explain what the person or object is like. Try to use strong verbs and concrete nouns in your description.

   God’s people showed great artistic talent in creating Solomon’s temple. Gold adorned the walls, the lampstands, the candlesticks, the cherubim, the mercy seat, and other furnishings. Silver, brass, and precious gems also appeared in great amounts. The best artisans of the children of Israel wove the curtains in one piece without seams. The cedar pillars for the framework of the building came from Lebanon, and other precious woods were imported from far-away countries. What an incredible building this temple must have been!

3. **Reasons.** If your topic sentence gives an opinion, give reasons to support it.

   Wearing your seat belt any time you are in a moving vehicle is very important. A seat belt may save your life! Safety belts keep passengers from going through the windshield or being tossed around inside the vehicle if an accident should occur. Seat belts also distribute the energy of an impact around your body instead of focusing it on a few weaker parts of your body, such as your face. This reduces the risk of serious injury from a collision. A seat belt may even keep you from whiplash or other more minor injuries if the car comes to a sudden stop. Most safety analysts say that wearing a safety belt can reduce your risk of injury or death from a car accident by fifty percent. So the next time you go somewhere, buckle up!

4. **Narrative.** Some paragraphs simply tell a story. These paragraphs are best developed through use of details telling what happened.

   Our youth group was hiking along a mountain stream in Colorado when we came upon a canoe floating upside down in the river. Realizing that there were people in danger, we spread out to find them. Finally someone noticed a man half out of the water, flat on his face. Soon we discovered his wife a little way downstream. Both were seriously injured, so several of our chaperones began first aid treatment. Someone else drove out of the remote area to call for help. Eventually a helicopter arrived and carried the injured couple to the hospital.
Lesson 7

Suppose you were given these topics to write a paragraph about. Write which method of development you would use for each: examples, description, reasons, or narrative.

5. ____________ personal testimony of how you came to know the Lord
6. ____________ your new home in Wyoming
7. ____________ inventions that changed communication
8. ____________ one longer recess versus several short ones

For each topic, write a topic sentence and three pieces of information that would fit with the given type of paragraph development.

9. a Thanksgiving feast, description

For each topic, write a topic sentence and three pieces of information that would fit with the given type of paragraph development.

10. reading the Bible, reasons

Looking Back

Underline the verbs. Write the tense of each.

11. ________________ Saul was pursuing David through the wilderness.
12. ________________ Joab was the commander of David’s army.
13. ________________ According to the Revelation, in heaven there will be no more crying and no more pain.
14. ________________ Jesus is coming again to receive His own.
15. ________________ In the year 2026, it will have been 250 years since the beginning of the United States.
16. ________________ Joe has been making a china cabinet for Mom’s birthday.
17. ________________ Miss Myers will have been teaching for twenty years by the end of this school year.
Give an example of each and punctuate it correctly by underlining or using quotation marks.

18. title of a book

19. title of a song

20. name of a piece of artwork

Write whether the underlined word is an adverb (adv) or adjective (adj).

21. ______ It remained unlawful to kill large birds in London in the 1600s.
22. ______ They were needed badly to eat the rubbish off the streets.
23. ______ Only the wealthy stayed clean because of their opportunity to wash.

Circle the objective complement. Write adj if it is an adjective or n if it is a noun.

24. ______ A lack of a sanitary source made the city’s water unpalatable.
25. ______ John F. Kennedy named Lyndon Johnson his running mate.
26. ______ According to 1 John 1, if we say we have not sinned, we make God a liar.
27. ______ The Constitution of the United States implies that God created all men equal.

Label the underlined complements: predicate nominative (pn), predicate adjective (pa), direct object (do), indirect object (io), objective complement (oc).

28. London was the site of much turmoil in the seventeenth century.
30. Many people called the fire God’s punishment for the city’s wickedness.
31. A plague thirty years earlier had been difficult for the people of London also.

Lesson 8

Paragraph Organization

Once you have your topic sentence and some developing details, you need to organize your paragraph by arranging the details in a logical order. Choose the type of organization that fits best with your topic. Some paragraphs also end with a summary sentence that wraps up the entire idea of the paragraph.

1. Chronological order tells events in the order in which they happened. This often works best for a story or a biography.

   Charles Dickens’s story A Christmas Carol tells of how an old miser changes to a giving man. Ebenezer Scrooge, who is wealthy but selfish, goes to sleep on the night before Christmas. But during the night three “Spirits” visit him. They show him Christmases from his past, present, and future. At the end of the vision, Scrooge stands by his grave, seeing that no one even cared when he died. The next morning he awakens from his dream a changed man, ready to share his wealth with the needy.