

Predicate Nominatives and Predicate Adjectives!

Predicate nominatives (PNs) are nouns that follow a linking verb and RENAME the subject. Predicate adjectives (PAs) are adjectives that follow a linking verb and DESCRIBE the subject. These things are *tricky!* The reason? They appear in exactly the same place that direct objects do in a sentence. **The most important thing to remember about PNs and PAs is that they MUST and CAN ONLY follow a LINKING VERB.** PNs and PAs cannot appear in a sentence that has an action verb. Ever. Can't happen. Won't happen. So, with that being said, if you can remember the little equation below, you'll be all set when it comes to identifying IOs and DOs and PNs and PAs:

Action verb = Direct and indirect objects
**Linking verb = Predicate nominatives (nouns) and
predicate adjectives**

- **Maximus** the black labrador retriever **was** very **old**.
 - Maximus = Simple subject (SS)
 - was = Simple predicate (SP) (LINKING verb)
 - old = Predicate adjective since it DESCRIBES the subject.

- **Charlie** was **being** very **rude** to his teacher.
 - Charlie = SS
 - being = SP (LINKING verb)
 - rude = Predicate adjective since it DESCRIBES the subject.

- **Members** of the chess team **were** **unhappy** after their loss.
 - Members = SS
 - were = SP (LINKING verb)
 - unhappy = Predicate adjective since it DESCRIBES the subject.

- The **pizza** at Gionino's **is** **delicious!**
 - Pizza = SS
 - is = SP (LINKING verb)
 - delicious = Predicate adjective since it DESCRIBES the subject.

- The humid ocean **air** **smelled** **salty**.
 - air = SS
 - smelled = SP (LINKING verb)
 - salty = Predicate adjective since it DESCRIBES the subject.
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- **William Wallace** **was** a **hero** to many Scotlanders.
 - William Wallace = SS
 - was = SP (Linking verb)
 - hero = Predicate nominative (noun) since it RENAMES the subject.
 - **Shirley** has **been** a dedicated **student** her whole life.
 - Shirley = SS
 - been = SP (Linking verb)
 - student = Predicate nominative (noun) since it RENAMES the subject.
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AN IMPORTANT NOTE! There will NEVER BE A PN AND A PA IN THE SAME SENTENCE. EVER. In the sentence above, you might be tempted to say that the word “dedicated” is a PA since it follows a linking verb and it *seems* like it’s describing the subject Shirley...*but it’s not!* The sentence states that Shirley is a dedicated *student*, not that she is simply dedicated, so the word “dedicated” is modifying the word “student”, not the word “Shirley.” Always check closely to see which words are being linked in the sentence.

- **Mark the Goat** **is** an Australian rugby **player**.
 - Mark the Goat = SS
 - is = SP (Linking verb)
 - player = Predicate nominative (noun) since it RENAMES the subject.
- The **Linen Quarter** **is** a vibrant **area** of Belfast city center.
 - Linen Quarter = SS
 - is = SP (Linking verb)
 - area = Predicate nominative (noun) since it RENAMES the subject.
- The **Boeing 747** has **been** a reliable passenger **jet** since 1968.
 - Boeing 747 = SS
 - been = SP (Linking verb)
 - jet = Predicate nominative (noun) since it RENAMES the subject.