**Conventions Resource 1.8**

**Subject Complements** A **linking verb** connects its subject to a subject complement. A **subject complement** is a noun, a pronoun, or an adjective that follows a linking verb and completes the thought by telling something about the subject.

The most common linking verbs are forms of be, such as *am, is, are, was*, and *were*. Other verbs that function as linking verbs when they are followed by subject complements include *seem, look, feel, become, grow*, and *appear*. There are three types of subject complements:

A **predicate noun** or **predicate pronoun** follows a linking verb and identifies or renames the subject of a sentence.

A **predicate adjective** follows a linking verb and describes the subject of a sentence.

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| PREDICATE NOUN | PREDICATE PRONOUN | PREDICATE ADJECTIVE |
| Ronnie will be the captain of the team. | The winners are they. | The flight to Houston was swift. |
| The noun *captain* renames the subject, *Ronnie*. | *They* identifies the subject, *winners*. | *Swift* describes the subject, *flight*. |

**Read It .**

1. Identify the predicate noun, pronoun, or adjective in each sentence. Then briefly describe its function in the sentence.

a. The man who returned was really he, alive and well.

b. Clara is a genuine fortune-teller.

c. When Uncle Marcos leaves, Clara becomes upset.

2. Reread paragraph 2.

a. Mark and then label at least two examples of subject complements.

b. Try to find at least one predicate noun and at least one predicate adjective.

**Write It.**

Fill in the following sentences with a predicate noun, or a phrase that includes a predicate noun.

1. Uncle Marcos is a(n)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

2. Clara is the\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Fill in the following sentences with a predicate adjective.

3. When he works on his inventions, Uncle Marcos seems\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

4. The character of Clara appears\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .