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.
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**examples:**

Richard’s new boat is a kayak.

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- kayak – complement (a noun that renames the boat)

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