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| Complements: Noun Object Complements | | |
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| **FORM:** | subject + verb + direct object + noun complement |  |
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| **USE:** | **Noun complements** can express events that name or characterize the object. Common verbs: call, name, declare, label, term, proclaim  *We named our first child Nora*.  *The judge called him a liar.*  **Noun complements** can qualify the object.  Common verbs: believe, find, consider, think  *They found London an expensive city.*  *We consider it a wonderful film.*  *\*\*“They found London* ***to be*** *an expensive city.”* has the same meaning, but doesn’t use the noun object complement structure.  **Noun complements** describe characteristics caused by a certain event or action.  Common verbs: appoint, elect, make, crown  *The members elected her the president of the organization.*  *Paul’s actions during the emergency made him a hero.* | |
|  | \*\***Noun object complements** look similar to indirect objects followed by direct objects. The forms are similar but the meanings are different.  **Indirect Object Direct Object**  I called her a taxi.  They made him a birthday cake.    **Direct Object Noun Complement**  I called her a liar.  They made him the president. | |

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| *The numbered sentences below have unclear meanings. One follow-up statement is logical if the sentence has an INDIRECT OBJECT. The other statement is logical if the sentence has a NOUN OBJECT COMPLEMENT. Explain the meanings.* |

Example: We found Jack a helpful assistant.

a. Jack’s assistant made his job much easier. *(“helpful assistant” is a direct object,*

*referring to another person we found to help Jack)*

* 1. Jack helped us with our work. *(“helpful assistant” is a noun complement*: *Jack himself is helpful to us*)

1. They called me a waiter.

a. I told them I was a customer, not a waiter.

b. The waiters were very busy so I had to wait for one to come.

1. I made my daughter a cake for the costume party.
   1. The kids all loved eating the chocolate cake.

b. It was a little difficult for her to wear the costume all afternoon.

3. He found his sister a good gardener.

a. His sister was happy to pay someone to help in her garden.

b. He asked his sister to help him because his garden wasn’t doing well.

4. She called him a doctor.

* 1. He was sick and needed medical care.
  2. He said that he wasn’t a doctor, he was a nurse.