

Object complement

Study the sentence given below. Does it make complete sense?

They elected Martin.

While this sentence has a subject, a verb and an object, it does not make complete sense. We understand that Martin has been elected, but we don't know what position he occupies. In this case, we need a word or phrase to complete the meaning of the object.

They elected Martin their president.

Here the noun 'their president' acts as the object complement.

More examples are given below.

They named the boy Christopher. (Subject - they; verb - named; object - the boy; object complement - Christopher)

Here the noun 'Christopher' completes what is said about the object 'the boy' and hence it acts as the object complement.

More examples are given below.

James calls his dog Tiger. (Subject - James; verb - calls; object - his dog; object complement - Tiger)

The members elected Mathews their president. (Subject - the members; verb - elected; object - Mathews; object complement - their president)

The minister made his nephew his private secretary. (Object complement - his private secretary)

The king named his youngest son his successor.

The object complement can also be an adjective or an adjective phrase.

My reply made my father angry. (Subject - my reply; verb - made; object - my father; object complement - angry)

The manager kept the clerks always busy. (Object complement - always busy)

The teachers considered the boy very bright. (Object complement - very bright)

The judge found the accused guilty. (Object complement - guilty)

He proved them wrong. (Object complement - wrong)