

Module 5: Poetry

Topic 7 Content: Grammar - Predicate Nominatives and Predicate Adjectives Notes

A predicate nominative is a noun or noun phrase that gives the subject of a sentence another name. It actually ties the sentence together. A “to be” verb or a linking verb always comes before the predicate nominative. So, be on the lookout for these verbs. Specifically, “to be” verbs include: *am, is, are, was, were, be, may be, being, been,* and *has been*; and linking verbs include the action verbs of: *appear, become, continue, feel, grow, remain, seem, smell, sound, stay, taste,* and *turn*.

For example, in the sentence, *Dina is a basketball player*, the subject is *Dina*, and the “to be” verb is *is*. Since the predicate nominative is the noun phrase that renames the subject and follows the “to be” verb, *a basketball player* is the predicate nominative.

Now take a look at the sentence, *Darrell became our class president*. The subject of the sentence is *Darrell*, and the linking verb is *became*. Since the predicate nominative is the noun phrase that renames the subject and follows the linking verb, the predicate nominative is *our class president*.

In a sentence, the predicate adjective changes or modifies the subject. Linking verbs typically function as the connection between the subject and predicate adjective that describes it.

For example, examine the sentence, *The music grew loud*. The subject is *music*, the linking verb is *grew*, and the predicate adjective that describes the subject is *loud*.

Now, take a look at the sentence, *The flower turned brown in the heat*. The subject of the sentence is *flower*, the linking verb is *turned*, and the predicate adjective that modifies the subject is *brown*.