### Distinguishing Complements

There are **four different possible types of complements.** Use the following sequence to identify the types of complements:

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| IM_Complements_F1 | **Possibility # 1: Subject / Verb**If nothing answers the question “Verb + whom or what?”, the pattern is S/V.  **[STOP: You have your answer.]** |
| IM_Complements_F2 | **Possibility # 2: Subject / Verb / Predicate Adjective** If the word that answers the question “what?” after the verb is an adjective, the pattern is S/V/PA. **[STOP: You have your answer.]** |
| IM_Complements_F3 | **Possibility # 3: Subject / Verb / Predicate Noun**If the word that answers the question is a noun (or pronoun) that renames the subjectand the verb implies an equality or identity between subject and complement,the pattern is S/V/PN. For example:Ed remained a child. (“Remained” here means “was” and “continues to be.”) Bill became a teacher. (He “was” not, but now he “is.”) A sentence such as “Sleeping children resemble angels.” Means that when they are sleeping, children equal angels, at least in appearance.“Angels” is therefore a predicate noun.**[STOP: You have your answer.]** |
| Note that the criteria of implied equality between subject and complement eliminate “herself” from consideration as a predicate noun in a sentence such as “She washes herself.” “Washes” does not imply equality. |
| IM_Complements_F4 | **Possibility #4: Subject / Verb / (Indirect Object) Direct Object** **[If it’s not 1, 2, or 3, it has to be #4]**If a word or construction answers the question “whom or what?” after a verb and is not a predicate noun or predicate adjective, it has to be an indirect or direct object. An indirect object indicates the person “for” or “to” whom something is done.Examples of Direct Objects: Sally bought ice cream (S/V/DO) The cat washed itself (S/V/DO) Examples of Indirect Objects:They sent him (IO) a letter (DO). The sun gave the church’s windows (IO) a warm glow (DO). |

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| SVC_03 | Mixed Complements—Tongue TwistersEx # 3 |

**Directions:**

1. Put parentheses ( ) around each prepositional phrase.

2. Underline subjects once, finite verbs twice, and label complements (PN, PA, IO, DO).

1. Six slippery snails slid slowly seaward.

2. Brad's big black bath brush broke.

3. She sifted thistles through her thistle-sifter.

4. Cedar shingles should be shaved and saved.

5. Kris Kringle carefully crunched on candy canes.

6. Betty and Bob brought back blue balloons from the big bazaar.

7. Give papa a cup of proper coffee in a copper coffee cup.

8. The soldiers shouldered shooters on their shoulders.

9. Strict strong stringy Stephen Stretch slickly snared six sickly silky snakes.

10. Sure the ship's shipshape, sir.

11. Fred fed Ted bread, and Ted fed Fred bread.

12. Betty better butter Brad's bread.