

PREDICATE ADJECTIVES

What Are Predicate Adjectives?

A predicate adjective is an adjective that follows a linking verb and modifies (i.e., describes) the subject of the linking verb.

Subject + Linking Verb + Predicate Adjective

How to Identify Predicate Adjectives

Look for the linking verbs

The verb to be (in its various forms, e.g., **am**, **are**, **is**, **was**, **were**, **will be**, **has been**, **have been**).

The "sense" verbs (e.g., to **feel**, to **look**, to **smell**, to **taste**, to **sound**).

The "status" verbs (e.g., to **appear**, to **become**, to **continue**, to **grow**, to **seem**, to **turn**).

*A **linking verb** will always be completed by an adjective (a **predicate adjective**) or a noun (a predicate nominative). We will have a separate discussion for predicate nominative in the future.*

Examples:

Note: Words highlighted in green linking verbs and the words in bold letters are predicate adjectives.

Children **grow** **older** every day with nurturing and care.

Her lasagna **smells** **scrumptious**; even the neighbors want a bite!

All the kittens **are** **asleep** except for one.

My neighbors **are** **Japanese-American**, but they don't speak any Japanese at all.

Mary **would be** **perfect** for him.

Her costume **is** **strange** since it covers her entire face.

Aspen leaves **turn** **yellow** in the fall.

The two instruments **look** **similar** in size and color.

- I. Exercise: Choose the predicate adjective and say the subject it modifies in each of the following sentences.

1. As the storm approached, the clouds grew black.
2. The news was shocking and unbelievable.
3. Carol and Ginger were ecstatic.
4. We were afraid of the dark.
5. Love can be unstoppable.
6. My vacation will be restful.
7. Our family is crazy and fun-loving.
8. Those people seem strange.
9. Children are active and cute.
10. Teenagers should be respectful.

II. Exercise.

Create a predicative adjective sentence using the following linking verbs:

1. Feel

2. Look

3. Smell

4. Taste

5. Sound

6. Appear

7. Become

8. Continue

9. Grow

10. Seem

11. Turn

III. Complete each sentence with a predicate adjective.

1. The Great Chicago fire must have been _____.
2. People felt _____ when they saw the flames near their homes.
3. The fire department was _____ trying to get to all the calls.
4. The flames were extremely _____.
5. The air smelled _____.
6. After the fire, people felt _____ with whoever had started it.
7. It was _____ to see all the burned-out buildings.
8. Who could have been _____ enough to set a whole city on fire?

9. The damage caused by the fire was _____.

10. Luckily, owing to a great deal of effort, Chicago's recovery was _____.