LINKING VERBS AND PATTERNS 4 & 5

DEFINITION: A linking verb is a word that links its subject with a noun (or pronoun) or an adjective in the predicate. (The predicate is everything except the subject and its modifiers)

THE SUBJECT OF AN ACTION VERB IS DOING SOMETHING.
THE SUBJECT OF A LINKING VERB IS BEING SOMETHING.

There are only a small group of verbs that can be linking verbs. For the most part, they are -

BE (is, are, am, was, were, being, been)  SMELL  STAY
SEEM  TASTE  APPEAR
BECOME  LOOK  REMAIN
FEEL  GROW

Some of these verbs are always linking verbs (such as seem and become), but most of them can be action verbs too. In order to be sure it's a linking verb, you have to determine if it's in a LINKING VERB SENTENCE PATTERN.

PATTERN 4 - N-LV-N: This is the first linking verb sentence pattern. We call it "noun - linking verb - noun." The first noun (or pronoun) is the SUBJECT, next comes the LINKING VERB, and then comes the second noun which is called the PREDICATE NOMINATIVE. The most important thing to remember is that the subject and the predicate nominative are always the same person or thing.

EXAMPLE:
adj  n  lv  art  n  pp  art  pp  art  pn
My cousin is a captain (in the Navy).

Notice how cousin and captain are the same person in this sentence? If the sentence said, "My cousin married a captain in the Navy," that wouldn't be the case, would it? Notice how the base line differs from a Pattern 2 sentence: the line which separates the action verb from its direct object is vertical, whereas the line which separates a linking verb from its predicate nominative is diagonal and slants upward to the left. The predicate nominative is the noun or pronoun that completes the linking verb pattern.

PATTERN 5 - N-LV-ADJ: This is the second linking verb pattern. We call it "noun - linking verb - adjective." The noun is the SUBJECT, then comes the LINKING VERB, and then comes an adjective called the PREDICATE ADJECTIVE. The predicate adjective always describes the subject.

EXAMPLE:
art  n  lv  p-adj  pp  art  adj  n
The students looked angry (about the pop quiz).

REMEMBER: If you have an action verb in your sentence, then you have either Pattern 1, Pattern 2, or Pattern 3. If, however, you have a linking verb, then you have either Pattern 4 or Pattern 5. In a Pattern 4 sentence the linking verb LINKS the subject with another noun or pronoun in the predicate. In a Pattern 5 sentence the linking verb LINKS the subject to an adjective in the predicate. On the back of this page is the completed Process chart. Use it as you do these exercises. If you understand the Process chart, it will be your "best friend" in mastering this material.

(over)

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THE PROCESS

Step 1. Find & mark "n" all the nouns in the sentence.

Step 2. Find & mark all the articles and adjectives (Ask, "Which [say the noun]?")

Step 3. Find & mark all the pronouns.

Step 4. Find & mark all the prepositions and put parentheses around the prepositional phrases.

Step 5. Find all words that look like verbs and mark them "v."

Step 6. Ask, "Who or what (say the verb)?"

No answer? It's a verbal. Leave it marked "v" and go on.

No answer? You have an action verb. Your baseline looks like this:

No. Step 9 (a). Ask, "Does this word describe the subject?"

No. You've made a mistake. Go back to Step 7.

Yes. It's a predicate adjective. You have a linking verb. Baseline looks like this:

No. It's a direct object. You have an action verb. Baseline looks like this:

Yes. It's a predicate nominative. You have a linking verb. Baseline looks like this:

No answer? Step 7. Ask, "(subject) (verb) what?"

Yes. Step 8. Ask, "Is this answer a noun?"

Yes. It's a predicate nominative. You have a linking verb. Baseline looks like this:

No. Step 9 (b). Is this noun the same as the subject?

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PATTERNS 4 & 5: EXERCISE #1

NAME: ___________________________ DATE: ___________________________

**DIRECTIONS:** All the sentences below are either the N-LV-N or N-LV-ADJ pattern. Parse and diagram the sentences.

1. Jewish-Americans are important contributors to American culture.

2. George Burns was one of America’s most beloved comedians.

3. The extremely talented Barbra Streisand is a great popular singer.

4. Henry Kissinger was America’s powerful Secretary of State during the Nixon administration.

5. One influential Jewish-American publisher was Joseph Pulitzer.

6. Dr. Jonas Salk’s polio vaccine was terribly important.

7. Albert Einstein’s mind was more brilliant than any other.

8. Baseball Hall of Fame’s Sandy Koufax was greatly respected.
9. George Gershwin's music was incredibly beautiful.

10. The history of Jews in America is indeed great.

**DIRECTIONS:** Write what job the underlined words are doing. Choose your answers from among the following:

- SUBJECT
- PREDICATE NOMINATIVE
- OBJECT OF THE PREPOSITION
- MODIFIER
- VERB
- PREDICATE ADJECTIVE

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PATTERN 4 & 5: EXERCISE #2

NAME: __________________________________________ DATE: ______________________

DIRECTIONS: All of the sentences below are either N-LV-N or N-LV-ADJ. Parse and diagram the entire sentence.

1. The young girl was terrified by the guns of the Nazi prison guards.

2. The members of her family were prisoners of the anti-Jewish German government in the early 1940’s.

3. She was a helpless inmate of Camp Mittelsteine in Germany.

4. The prisoner identification number on her arm was 55082.

5. Riva grew weaker from hunger.

6. This young girl felt desperately lonely for her parents.

7. They were prisoners of a death camp in a different place.

8. The guards at Riva’s camp were almost unbelievably cruel.
9. The mere idea of escape looked hopeless.

10. Riva felt less miserable in the secret world of her poetry.

**DIRECTIONS:** Write what job the following words are doing. Choose your answers from among the following:

- SUBJECT
- PREDICATE NOMINATIVE
- OBJECT OF THE PREPOSITION
- MODIFIER
- PREDICATE ADJECTIVE
- VERB

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PATTERNS 4 & 5: EXERCISE #3

NAME:____________________________________________DATE:_____________________

DIRECTIONS: The sentences below represent all five sentence patterns: N-V, N-V-N, N-V-N-N, N-LV-N, and N-LV-ADJ. Parse and diagram the entire sentence.

1. The first group of Jews in America came from Brazil to New Amsterdam in 1654.

2. The second Jewish settlement in the American colonies was the village of Newport in Rhode Island in 1658.

3. Jews were “an alien nation” according to some ignorant settlers.

4. The first Jews in Pennsylvania traded with the Indians along the Delaware River in 1655.

5. The devout Jews of Philadelphia built themselves a very beautiful synagogue in 1770.

6. At the time of the American Revolution, approximately 2,500 Jews lived in the American colonies.

7. This tiny Jewish minority became historically important during the days of our fight for freedom from Great Britain.
8. Jews played an important part in the revolutionary struggle from the start.

9. Jews from Europe also joined into the fight for freedom.

10. Be proud of these early Jewish patriots!

**DIRECTIONS:** Write what job the underlined words are doing. Choose your answers from among the following:

- **SUBJECT**
- **DIRECT OBJECT**
- **INDIRECT OBJECT**
- **PREDICATE NOMINATIVE**
- **OBJECT OF THE PREPOSITION**
- **MODIFIER**
- **PREDICATE ADJECTIVE**
- **VERB**

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