Predicate Adjectives and Predicate Nominatives
Grade Six

Skill Focus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levels of Thinking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Remember</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Understand</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Apply</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Create</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Close Reading</th>
<th>Grammar</th>
<th>Composition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Usage</td>
<td>Predicate Nominatives/Adjectives</td>
<td>Multi-Mode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Expressive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Imaginative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Materials and Resources
- Grammar Lesson: “Direct and Indirect Objects”

Lesson Introduction
In this lesson, students will learn about linking verbs that connect subjects with predicate nominatives (nouns and pronouns) and predicate adjectives.

Practice using these structures will reveal the highly useful and interesting nature of these tools of grammar.
Predicate Adjectives and Predicate Nominatives
Grade Six

Two useful sentence patterns you may not have practiced yet can be expressed in the following equations:

S-LV-PA (Subject-Linking Verb-Predicate Adjective)

S-LV-PN (Subject-Linking Verb-Predicate Nominative)

You probably already know that the subject of a sentence is the noun or pronoun that performs the action of the sentence or that is the “state of being” expressed in the sentence by “be” verbs (is, am, was, were, be, been, etc.), some sensory verbs (taste, smell, sound, feel, look, etc.) and some verbs expressing condition (become, seem, stay, grow, remain, etc.).

A linking verb is different from an action verb because no action is taking place. The verb is simply connecting the subject, either with an adjective that describes it or a noun or pronoun that renames, or identifies, it. These adjectives are called predicate adjectives, and these nouns or pronouns are predicate nominatives.

S-LV-PA (Subject-Linking Verb-Predicate Adjective)

That dog is mean.
That cake tastes delicious.
That flower smells fantastic.

Nothing is happening in the sentences above. The dog isn’t doing anything mean; he’s just in a state of being mean. The cake doesn’t have a tongue, so it can’t actually be tasting anything. It’s just in a state of being delicious, waiting for someone to come along and actually taste it. The flower doesn’t have a nose, so it can’t smell anything. It merely possesses a smell that is in a state of being fantastic, waiting for someone to come along and smell it.

In these sentences, the verbs is, tastes, and smells serve as linking verbs, connecting the nouns dog, cake, and flower to the adjectives that describe them.

S-LV-PN (Subject-Linking Verb-Predicate Nominative)

That pretty woman is my teacher.
That fruit is a peach.
Firemen are public servants.

In the sentences above, the woman is not doing a specific action (she is not writing, discussing, computing, directing, guiding, etc.); she’s just being identified as a teacher. Likewise, the fruit is identified as a peach, and the firemen are identified as public servants. In these sentences, the linking verbs connect the subject with a noun that renames, or identifies, it.
These sentence structures can be used in some interesting ways to make associations your reader may not have thought of. Try the following activities and see what happens.

**Practice with Predicate Adjectives**
1. Fill in the blanks below with predicate adjectives. Your responses can be sensible and ordinary, or imaginative. Try to think of the way a color would look, feel, taste, smell, or sound.

   *Examples:*  
   *Scarlet is spicy.*  
   *Chartreuse is enchanting.*  
   *Brown is bitter.*  
   *Beige is bland.*

   Green is ____________________________________________________________.
   Blue is ______________________________________________________________.
   Red is ________________________________________________________________.
   Yellow is ____________________________________________________________.
   Purple is ____________________________________________________________.
   Pink is _______________________________________________________________.
   Black is ______________________________________________________________.
   Orange is ____________________________________________________________.
   White is ______________________________________________________________.
   Gold is _______________________________________________________________.
   Silver is _____________________________________________________________.
   Amber is _____________________________________________________________.
   Coral is ______________________________________________________________.

**Practice with Predicate Nouns**
2. Now use the same colors, but fill in the blanks with predicate nouns, which will remove, or identify, the colors. You may use prepositional phrases to describe the predicate nouns if you wish. Try to think of what the color would look like if it were a person, a sight, a sound, a taste, a smell, or a feeling. Let your imagination lead the way; play with the language.
Examples: Scarlet is a beautiful dancer with a rose in her hair.
Chartreuse is a chubby child with ice cream fingers.
Brown is pot roast sizzling in the oven.
Beige is fur floating on the collar of a coat.

Green is ____________________________________________________________.
Blue is ____________________________________________________________.
Red is ____________________________________________________________.
Yellow is ____________________________________________________________.
Purple is ____________________________________________________________.
Pink is ____________________________________________________________.
Black is ____________________________________________________________.
Orange is ____________________________________________________________.
White is ____________________________________________________________.
Gold is ____________________________________________________________.
Silver is ____________________________________________________________.
Amber is ____________________________________________________________.
Coral is ____________________________________________________________.

3. If you wish, make a poem out of some of the sentences you have created.