

## SUBJECT COMPLEMENTS

There are two types of subject complements. Both types occur in the predicate after the linking verb (*am, are, is, was, were, will be, been*). The predicate includes the verb, verb helpers, modifiers, and other words that modify or rename the subject. The first type of subject complement is called a *predicate nominative* or *predicate noun*. It appears after a linking verb and renames the subject. You can see the difference between the appositive and the predicate nominative below:

Example:

The scientist, an **aquanaut**, is able to record the data.

(The word *aquanaut* renames the subject and is set off by commas, so it's an appositive.)

Example:

The scientist is also an **aquanaut**, able to record the data.

(Here, the word *aquanaut* renames the subject but follows a linking verb; therefore, it is a predicate nominative or noun.)

The second type of subject complement is a *predicate adjective*. In the following examples, you can see the difference between an adjective that

occurs before the subject noun and an adjective that occurs in the predicate after a linking verb:

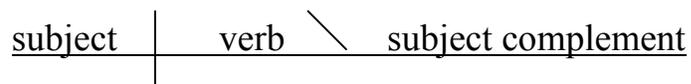
Example: The **plentiful** nutrients are **important** to the health of the reef.

(*Plentiful* is an adjective modifying the subject *nutrients*, and *important* is a predicate adjective that follows the linking verb *are* and modifies the subject *nutrients*.)

Example: The nutrients are **plentiful** and **important** to the health of the reef.

(*Plentiful* and *important* are adjectives located in the predicate. Both follow the linking verb *are* and modify the subject, *nutrients*.)

The subject complement (whether it is a predicate nominative or predicate adjective) is diagrammed as follows:



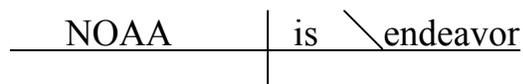
A slanted back slash is used between the verb and the subject complement to indicate that the subject complement (although located

in the predicate) actually modifies the subject.

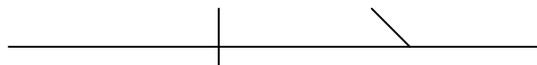
**Exercise 6: Diagramming Subjects, Verbs, and Subject  
Complements**  
*Aquarius: The World's Only Underwater Laboratory*

**Directions:** Print the following exercise. In each sentence, underline the subject complement and write on the line provided whether it is a predicate nominative (**PN**) or a predicate adjective (**PA**). Then add the subject, verb, and subject complement to the diagram frames provided. The first sentence has been done for you.

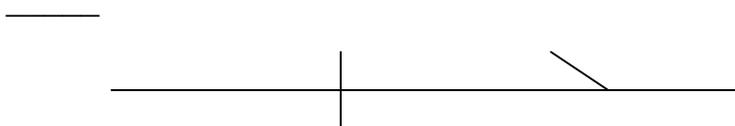
1. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is a national undersea research endeavor. PN



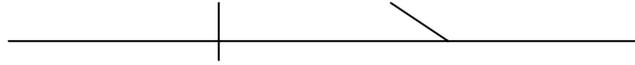
2. The Aquarius is an underwater habitat. \_\_\_\_\_



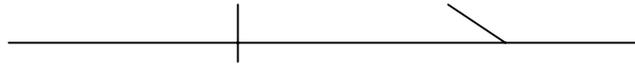
3. The scientists are comfortable at a depth between 55 and 120 feet.



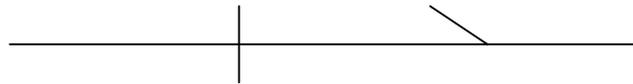
4. The Aquarius is 43 feet long, 13 feet wide, and 16.5 feet high. \_\_\_\_\_



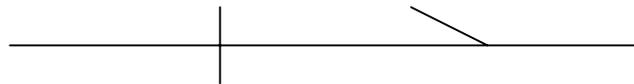
5. The Aquarius, situated at Conch Reef off Key Largo, was the only operational undersea habitat for scientific research in the world. \_\_\_\_\_



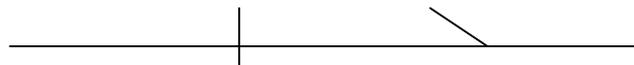
6. Underwater scientists are explorers in an alien environment. \_\_\_\_\_



5. Coral reefs are the tropical rain forests of the sea. \_\_\_\_\_



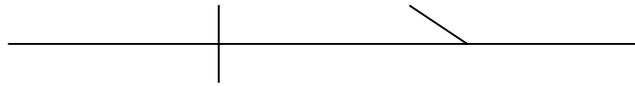
8. The underwater laboratory is more than adequate for “saturation diving.” \_\_\_\_\_



9. Aquarius’ predecessor was Hydrolab in the United States Virgin Islands. \_\_\_\_\_



10. The Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium is trained to conduct sophisticated underwater experiments. \_\_\_\_\_



Adapted from:

[http://www.uncwil.edu/nurc/aquarius/press\\_room/press\\_releases/pre/11.htm](http://www.uncwil.edu/nurc/aquarius/press_room/press_releases/pre/11.htm).