An **object complement** is an noun, pronoun, or adjective which follows a direct object and renames it or tells what the direct object has become. It is most often used with verbs of creating or nominating such as **make, name, elect, paint, call**, etc.

We know there is a difference between calling Mayor Williams and calling Williams *mayor* or painting a red door and painting a door *red*. When the word follows the direct object and it tells what the direct object has become, it is the object complement. Sometimes people call it an *objective complement*. The italicized words on this page are object complements.

**Terms** used to identify various parts of each sentence pattern include the following:
- NP = noun phrase
  
  This abbreviation refers to a headword noun and its modifiers ("noun phrase") functioning as a subject, direct object, indirect object, subjective complement, or objective complement.
- NP1, NP2, NP3, etc. = designations for different noun phrase functions

  Numbers in sequential order are used with each NP to designate its difference from or similarity to other NPs before and after it.
- V-be = verb of being
- LV = linking verb
- V-int = intransitive verb
- V-tr = transitive verb
- ADV/TP = adverbial of time or place
- ADJ = adjective

**Objective Complement (OC)** - a noun, pronoun, or adjective that renames or describes (equals) the direct object.

Test for OC: insert "to be" between the DO and the OC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples: We consider Joe a gourmet.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We find the meatballs delicious.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**9. NP1 + V-tr + NP2 + ADJ**

The action verb is followed by a direct object. The direct object is followed by an adjective functioning as an objective complement.
Note: The second NP, the direct object, receives a different numerical designation (NP2) because it is not the same as the subject (NP1).

10. **NP1 + V-tr + NP2 + NP2**

The action verb is followed by a direct object. The direct object is followed by a noun functioning as an objective complement.

**Objective Complements Exercise**

Circle the objective compliment in each phrase.

1. They licked the platter clean.
2. We painted the town red.
3. Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Call me Ishmael.
6. He stuck a feather in his hat and called it macaroni.
7. They call the wind Maria.
8. Make someone happy; make just one someone happy, and you’ll be happy, too.
9. All of the other reindeer used to laugh and call him names.
10. Beauty often makes women proud.
Circle the objective compliment in each sentence.

1. Some hail Niagara Falls the greatest tourist attraction.
2. Settlers called the huge inland grassland, prairie.
3. Canada calls its nearest neighbor Alaska.
4. We called the Coast Mountains majestic.
5. The teacher named Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta Prairie provinces.
6. In 1993 Canada, the United States, and Mexico labeled their trade agreement NAFTA.
7. English-speaking explorers named the western portion Ontario.
8. Canada claims English and French official languages.
9. We considered Canada's climate cool.
10. After the American Revolution, many Americans loyal to Britain called Canada home

Circle all objective compliments in each sentence.

1. We called plants autotrophs.
2. Dr. Smith called the large, sack-like storage areas vacuoles.
3. The class voted Malcolm president of the T.W. Engelmann fan club.
4. Peat moss made the soil moist.
5. Scientists named the plant liverwort.
6. Sporophytes marked the plant hornwort.
7. After years of study, the researcher named the wetland a bog.
8. She called the developing fern leaves fiddleheads.
9. He renamed the seedless vascular plants club mosses and horsetails.
10. He named the yellow particles under mature fronds, spores.

Circle the objective compliment in each sentence.

1. Many consider Robert Frost one of our national poets.
2. The Kennedy administration elected Frost the speaker at the inauguration.
3. Unfortunately, the bright sun made him almost unable to read his text.
4. The image of Frost at that time made him a memorable figure.
5. Critics did not always deem Frost a good writer.
6. Stints as a schoolteacher, newspaper editor, and a cobbler only made him more versatile in his writing.
7. His farming experience in New England made him appreciative of the simple life.
8. The publication of his first two volumes of poetry in England made him famous.
9. Finally, critics hailed Frost a major poet.
10. This success made the rest of his life rewarding and productive.

Circle the objective compliment in each sentence.

1. Maybe Menelaus and his army painted the Trojan Horse brown.
2. The Trojans thought the giant horse a gift.
3. Odysseus wished himself home.
4. Back at his farm, Penelope, his wife, called her suitors fools.
5. Only his dog Argo did not believe Odysseus a stranger after the war.
6. Achilles, another hero in the Trojan War, believed himself invincible.
7. Thetis, Achilles's mother, got him wet in the River Styx except for his ankle.
8. Today we call the back tendon in the heel the Achilles tendon.
9. Paris thought Helen the most beautiful woman in the world.
10. He found her irresistible.

Circle the objective compliments in the following sentences.

1. For years, the White House styled itself the top of the social ladder in Washington.
2. With Jackson's entry, important families like the Bancrofts called the White House a place of frontiersmen and uncivilized men.
3. Jackson named these workers and simple farmers the backbone of America.
4. The people of America counted Jackson the spirit of the democratic fervor spreading across the country.
5. Harry Ward found Ohioans supporters of Jackson even though he did not win the election.
6. He called Jackson voters "strange and infatuated."
7. History books have wisely painted Andrew Jackson a man of the people.
8. Political pundits called John Quincy Adams talented and intelligent, but cold and hard.
9. They found Henry Clay charming and shrewd.
10. Recently the media called Al Gore a modern-day Andrew Jackson because both men won the popular vote to be president, but lost in the electoral college.