

Lesson 2

Predicate Adjectives

Teaching

A **predicate adjective** is an adjective that follows a linking verb and describes the verb's subject. The linking verb connects the predicate adjective with the subject.

Fire in the city is dangerous. (The linking verbs is *is*. The predicate adjective is *dangerous*.)

Often, forms of *be* are linking verbs, as in the above example. However, predicate adjectives can also follow other linking verbs such as *taste, smell, feel, look, become, and seem*.

Such a disaster seemed impossible. (The linking verbs is *seemed*. The predicate adjective is *impossible*.)

Identifying Predicate Adjectives

Underline the predicate adjective in each sentence. If the sentence has no predicate adjective, write **None** on the line to the right.

1. In 1871, the city of Chicago was already huge. _____
2. Over 350,000 residents felt proud of their beautiful city. _____
3. Most of the buildings in the city were wooden. _____
4. The hundreds of miles of sidewalk were wooden too. _____
5. But the beautiful city became deadly on the evening of October 8. _____
6. On that night, someone was careless. _____
7. How the fire started is still mysterious. _____
8. Soon, however, whole city blocks were burning. _____
9. The waterworks soon caught fire; without water, the firefighters were helpless. _____
10. The fire burned for more than a full day. _____
11. The blaze had caused about \$200,000 in damages. _____
12. After the fire, about 100,000 people were homeless. _____
13. More people had lost everything they owned. _____
14. The people of Chicago were courageous. _____
15. The new Chicago they built was even better than the old one. _____

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More Practice

A. Identifying Predicate Adjectives and the Words They Modify

Underline the predicate adjective in each of the following sentences. Write the word it modifies on the line to the right.

1. The forest appeared silver in the moonlight. _____
2. I felt uncomfortable on the first day of school. _____
3. As we approach, the volcano seems gigantic. _____
4. The woods smell fresh in springtime. _____
5. The voice on the phone sounded quite strange. _____
6. The weather has turned cold this week. _____
7. Some timbers of the old barn have become weathered. _____
8. In this rain, the path seems even longer than usual. _____
9. Isn't this room cozy? _____
10. What smells so delicious? _____

B. Writing Predicate Adjectives

Complete each sentence with a predicate adjective. Write the predicate adjective on the line.

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 _____.

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Application

A. Writing Predicate Adjectives in Sentences

Use the word at the beginning of each item as a predicate adjective in a sentence.

EXAMPLE creative *Artists are creative.*

- 1. careful _____
- 2. fancy _____
- 3. old _____
- 4. cheerful _____
- 5. gloomy _____
- 6. unexpected _____
- 7. great _____
- 8. full _____
- 9. crowded _____
- 10. ripe _____

B. Writing a Paragraph Using Predicate Adjectives

Suppose you had been in Chicago in 1871 when the Great Fire broke out. What might you have seen? How would you have felt? Write a short paragraph about your imagined experiences. Use at least four predicate adjectives in your description. Use a verb other than a form of *be* in at least two of the sentences. Underline the predicate adjectives in your paragraph.
