Predicate Adjectives

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. **None**
2. Over 350,000 residents felt proud of their beautiful city. **dangerous**
3. Most of the buildings in the city were wooden. **None**
4. The hundreds of miles of sidewalk were wooden too. **None**
5. But the beautiful city became deadly on the evening of October 8. **None**
6. On that night, someone was careless. **None**
7. How the fire started is still mysterious. **seemed**
8. Soon, however, whole city blocks were burning. **None**
9. The waterworks soon caught fire; without water, the firefighters were helpless. **None**
10. The fire burned for more than a full day. **None**
11. The blaze had caused about $200,000 in damages. **None**
12. After the fire, about 100,000 people were homeless. **None**
13. More people had lost everything they owned. **None**
14. The people of Chicago were courageous. **None**
15. The new Chicago they built was even better than the old one. **None**
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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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.

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