

## Grammar Help Sheet: Predicate Nominatives and Modifiers

### Predicate Nouns and Pronouns

A predicate noun or pronoun is a noun or pronoun that forms part of the predicate and means or refers to the same person or thing as the subject.

A predicate noun or pronoun is always in the nominative case.

A predicate noun or pronoun always follows some form of the verb “to be” (am, is, are, was, were, have been, had been, shall be, shall have been, could be, could have been, might be, might have been, may be, may have been). These verbs are called linking verbs.

Below are examples of predicate nouns and pronouns and linking verbs. The predicate nouns and pronouns are in bold and the linking verbs are underlined.

1. It is **I**.
2. That was **he**.
3. Who are **they**?
4. Who were the **singers**?
5. It might have been **she**.
6. It may be a **Ford**.
7. It is not **we**.
8. It wasn't my **teacher**.
9. Is it **I**?
10. Could it have been **he**?

### Predicate Adjectives

An adjective always describes a noun or a pronoun. A predicate adjective always describes the subject of the verb with which it is coupled.

A predicate adjective follows any form of the linking verb be (is, are, was, were, been) and the verbs seem, become, sound, look, feel, taste, smell, etc., when they are used as linking verbs.

Below are examples of predicate adjectives and linking verbs. The predicate adjectives are in Bold and the linking verbs are underlined.

1. The water is **cold**.
2. The lake was **blue**.
3. Roses are **beautiful**.
4. The children were **late**.
5. The girl has been **sick**.
6. Tomorrow will be **fair**.
7. The clouds became **black**.
8. The weather seems **chilly**.
9. The bell sounds **clear**.
10. I feel **happy**.
11. The butter smells **fresh**.
12. Those apples taste **sweet**.
13. The man looks **old**.