Complement and compliment sound alike, but their meanings are different.

Complement may be a noun meaning something that completes something else or makes perfect. As a noun it may also refer to a grammar term, as in subject complement. It may also be a verb meaning to make whole.

Example 1: The ribbons were the perfect complement to her dress.
Example 1: In the sentence, “They were hungry,” hungry is the subject complement.
Example 2: A light dessert will complement the meal.

Compliment may be a noun meaning admiration or praise, or it may be a verb meaning to give admiration or praise.

Example 1: He paid her a compliment on her sense of humor.
Example 2: Did you compliment Elizabeth on her science project?

Choose complement or compliment to complete each sentence.

1. A hat will _______________________ any outfit.

2. It is a kindness to _______________________ others on their achievements.

3. What is the subject _______________________ in this sentence?

4. Thank you for the _______________________.

5. She heard Nora _______________________ Joan on her hairstyle.

6. The store had a full _______________________ of sales staff.

7. Each book in the series is a _______________________ to the previous one.

8. It is a _______________________ to say I am like my father.

9. I want to _______________________ you on your patience.

10. Two angles that add up to 90 degrees are said to _______________________ each other.
**Commonly Confused Words: Complement vs. Compliment**

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