

Name: _____

Commonly Confused Words: Complement vs. Compliment

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.

Name: _____ **Key**

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