

MA GRAMMAR / WEEK 14

Adjective and noun complementation

MA Grammar · Week 14
Quirk et al., Chapter 16

Who is understood to do the action?

Constructed contrast

Rana is eager to interview.
Rana is easy to interview.
Rana is ready to interview.

Today's goals

Identify adjective complement types.
Compare subject and object readings.
Distinguish noun content from relative clauses.

Adjectives select different complements

PP and that-clause

The students are aware of the limitation.
The students are glad that the task is complete.

Wh- and than-clauses

We are uncertain what to include.
The result is different than we expected.

Several infinitives share the subject

Evaluation and manner

Rana was wise to ask.

Rana was quick to respond.

Emotion and willingness

Rana was glad to help.

Rana was eager to contribute.

Easy relates the subject to a missing object

Constructed example

The transcript is easy to annotate.

Paraphrase and interpretation

It is easy to annotate the transcript.

Someone annotates the transcript.
The transcript is not the annotator.

Ready and important pass different tests

Ready · object reading

The transcript is ready to annotate.
The transcript is ready to be annotated.

Important · extraposition

It is important to preserve the context.
To preserve the context is important.

An -ing clause has several patterns

Activity and ability

Rana is busy checking the references.
Rana is capable of checking them.

Object-related interpretation

The references are worth checking.
Someone checks the references.

Abstract nouns can take content clauses

Content complement

the claim that the sample is biased

The clause supplies the claim's content.

Relative comparison

the claim that the tutor challenged

The clause identifies which claim.

Workshop 1 · Interpret and paraphrase

1. The student is eager to supervise.
2. The student is easy to supervise.
3. The student is ready to supervise.
4. It is important to supervise carefully.

Identify the understood supervisor and test an appropriate paraphrase.

Drill key · Similar words, different relations

Items 1–2

1: the student is the supervisor.

2: the student is the person supervised;
someone else supervises.

Items 3–4

3: prepared to supervise, or ready to be
supervised, depending on context.

4: supervising carefully is what is evaluated
as important.

Workshop 2 · Concern about publication

“I am scared that my paper will be automatically rejected if it doesn’t follow conventional sectioning. Is this an issue?”

Authentic extract · Academia Stack Exchange
Public question by user1420303, 19 November 2015

Identify the adjective complement and its embedded condition.
What does this refer to?

The complement contains another clause

Scared is an emotive adjective with a finite that-clause complement.

The if-clause is embedded within the feared proposition.

It refers to the paper; this points to the preceding concern or situation.

The writer's fear does not establish that rejection will occur.

Text laboratory · A proposal review

Constructed teaching data

- 1 The researchers are eager to test the scheme.
- 2 The scheme is easy to apply to short extracts.
- 3 The revised dataset is ready to analyse.
- 4 It is important to retain the original context.
- 5 We are uncertain whether the categories overlap.
- 6 The claim that the labels are exhaustive needs evidence.

Compare patterns with controlled paraphrases

Identify who acts and what is acted on in lines 1–4.

Explain why the same paraphrase fails for easy and ready.

Classify the clause after uncertain and after claim.

Rewrite line 6 with a verb expressing the claim, preserving its unproven status.

Suggested analysis of the proposal review

Action relations

- 1: researchers are the testers.
- 2: scheme is what someone applies.
- 3: dataset is what someone analyses.
- 4: retaining context is evaluated.

Finite content

- 5: finite embedded whether-question.
- 6: that-clause supplies the claim's content.
It does not identify an object gap after exhaustive.

Challenge · Must that be relative?

The belief that the method is reliable persists.

Identify the subject and complement inside the that-clause.

Explain whether a missing object is needed.

Exit response · Test easy and ready

The questionnaire is easy to use.

The questionnaire is ready to use.

Give one successful paraphrase for each.

Show one test that separates the patterns.

Submit and prepare for synthesis

Submit portfolio 5: 500–600 words.

Submit the 1,200–1,500-word mini-investigation plus data appendix.

Include sampling, coding, peer-audit results and limitations.

Next week: review Chapters 12, 13, 14 and 16.