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## VERBS L 16 – VERBS WITH COMPLEMENTS

### BASIC INFO ABOUT COMPLEMENTS

Some conjugated verbs require complements for the sentence to be grammatically correct:

- Things that are required: **Complements**.
- Things that you can leave out: **Adjuncts**.

A complement is a part of the sentence that is grammatically required. The sentence is incomplete and does not make sense without it or has another meaning.

For example, every verb needs a subject. Therefore, the subject is always the nominative complement because the subject is grammatically required.

**Only exception:** commands do not always need subject complements: "Komm!"

**Complements can be singular words, phrases, or entire clauses.**

Complements are divided into the following groups:

1. **Nominative** Complements
2. **Accusative** Complements
3. **Dative** Complements
4. **Genitive** Complements (extremely rare)
5. **Prepositional** Complements



"Der Mann gibt dem Kind jetzt den Ball."

  
**Nominative**
  
**Dative**
  
**Adjunct**
  
**Accusative**

→ "Der Mann", "dem Kind" and "den Ball" are complements. Without them, the sentence does not make sense at all.

→ "Jetzt" is an adjunct because it just provides additional information.

"Der Mann wartet mit einem Geschenk auf seine Tochter."



Nominative



Prepositional  
Adjunct



Prepositional  
Adjunct

→ "Der Mann" must be included in the sentence. Therefore, it is a complement.

→ "Mit einem Geschenk" and "auf seine Tochter" just provide additional information.

You can simply omit them.

**You can find more information about complements in the following sub-lessons:**

- L16.1 Verbs with Nominative Complements
- L16.2 Verbs with Accusative Complements
- L16.3 Verbs with Dative Complements
- L16.4. Verbs with Dative and Accusative Complements
- L16.5. Verbs with Genitive Complements
- L16.6. Verbs with Prepositional Complements

## SUMMARY

- Complements are grammatically necessary parts of the sentence.
- Nevertheless, most of them can be omitted if it is obvious from the context.

## TASK



- Review the cases if you are not sure about the use of nominative, accusative, dative, and genitive.

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