The label **predicate** refers to that part of the sentence which is not the subject. The predicate contains the verb. Study the following examples.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Predicate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My sister</td>
<td>is a teacher.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice</td>
<td>Put the meat in the fridge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She</td>
<td>Often performs at public events.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In a question, the predicate may be discontinuous, or it may precede the subject. In the following examples, the bracketed portion is the predicate.

(Who were) you (talking to?)
(Never have) I (seen such a mess.)

**Predicate complement**

A predicate complement is a phrase that immediately follows a copular verb. A copular verb is a verb like **be, turn, taste, grow, seem** and **become**.

Janet is a diplomat. (Here the predicate complement is the phrase ‘a diplomat’.)
She turned red with anger. (Here the predicate complement is ‘red with anger’.)

A predicate complement can be a noun phrase, an adjective phrase or a prepositional phrase.

**Predicate nominal**

A noun phrase which is used as a predicate complement. An example is ‘a diplomat’ in Janet is a diplomat.

**Predicative**

A label applied to a linguistic unit which appears inside a predicate. For example, the adjective red is in predicative position in the sentence ‘My favorite color is red’.