

## Write with precision: “complement” vs. “compliment”

“Complement” means to put two or more things together that enhance each other or complete a set. It also means something that enhances another thing or completes a set.

### Examples

The running board is styled and painted to complement the truck.

In my previous work experience, I acquired many skills that would complement your marketing team’s skills.

BCIT offers a two-year diploma program, a range of continuing education courses, and a growing complement of online courses.

“Compliment” means praise or admiration, or to give praise or show admiration, as in the first two examples below. It can also mean that something is free, as in the last example below.

### Examples

In some cases, the courts have complimented the investigating officer on his interrogation skills.

“How to Take Compliments” is the title of a WikiHow.com article regarding gracious acceptance of praise or admiration.

The meet-and-greet has a cash bar with complimentary coffee, tea and juice.



A message from the Instructional Materials Developers in the Learning and Teaching Centre.

*Increasing student engagement with clearer content*