

Lesson
2

Action Verbs and Objects

Teaching

Action verbs often require words that complete their meaning. These words are called **complements**. These complements are direct objects and indirect objects.

A **direct object** is a word or words that name the receiver of the action. It answers *what* or *whom* receives the action of the verb.

Larry tells **stories**. (*What* does Larry tell? *stories*)

An **indirect object** tells *to what* or *whom* or *for what* or *whom* an action is done. Verbs that take indirect objects include *bring, give, make, send, show, teach, tell,* and *write*.

Larry tells **his friends** stories. (*To whom* does Larry tell stories? *his friends*)

Remember that if the preposition *to* appears before a word, that word is not an indirect object.

Transitive and Intransitive Verbs An action verb that has a direct object is called a **transitive verb**. An action verb that does not have a direct object is an **intransitive verb**.

Do not be confused when an intransitive verb is followed by an adverb. A direct object tells *what* or *whom*, while an adverb tells *how, when, where,* or *to what extent*.

Gina claps her hands. (*What* does Gina clap? *hands* Here **claps** is transitive.)
Colby claps loudly. (*How* does Colby clap? *loudly* Here **claps** is intransitive.)

Identifying Direct and Indirect Objects, and Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

In each sentence, underline the verb or verb phrase. Above each boldfaced word write **DO, IO, or ADV** for direct object, indirect object, or adverb. On the line to the right, write whether the verb is **Transitive or Intransitive**.

- Each of us told the **group** a **story**.
- Andrea narrated a **tale** of terror and bloodshed.
- Everyone was listening very **carefully**.
- Who wrote "**The Pit and the Pendulum**"?
- Marcus gave **us** a **lesson** in pronunciation.
- Joe read the **class** a **poem**.
- Gordon was writing **Katrina** a long **letter**.
- Anna spoke **indistinctly**.
- Peter and Al presented a little **skit**.
- Peter played the **part** of a policeman.

**Lesson
2**

Action Verbs and Objects

More Practice

A. Identifying Direct and Indirect Objects, and Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

In each sentence, underline the verb or verb phrase. Above each boldfaced word write **DO**, **IO**, or **ADV** for direct object, indirect object, or adverb. On the line at the right, write whether the verb is **Transitive** or **Intransitive**.

1. Louise started that **rumor**. _____
2. She told several **classmates** a nasty **story** about her friends. _____
3. She was lying **shamelessly**. _____
4. Thomas repeated the **tale**. _____
5. He told his **friends** a slightly different **version**. _____
6. Friends of the victims reacted **angrily**. _____
7. They told the **principal everything**. _____
8. He has given **Louise and Thomas detention** for a week. _____
9. Eloise never repeats **gossip**. _____
10. She speaks **truthfully**. _____

B. Completing Transitive Verbs by Adding Direct Objects

Add a direct object to each of these sentences.

1. Public service announcements give listeners _____ about various topics.
2. During blizzards, radio stations report _____.
3. They must verify their _____ before making their announcements.
4. Traffic announcers report _____ on the roads.
5. Photographers shoot _____ of unusual occurrences.
6. Sportscasters tell viewers _____ of the latest games.
7. Sometimes news bulletins interrupt _____.
8. During tornado alerts, viewers get _____ from local TV and radio stations.
9. A few hours after voting booths close, TV stations tell us _____.
10. Yesterday I watched _____ on the TV.