



Indirect and Direct Objects

About These Problems

This differentiates direct objects from indirect objects. A direct object is performing the action in the sentence and the indirect object is what the action is being done to. For example take the sentence "He told her the secret." He is the direct object in this sentence. Her is the indirect object. Most of the time you will be choosing between he/him she/her and they/them. Another common problem is avoiding passive voice by switching the location of the indirect object and the direct object. For example "The picture was taken by him." can be rephrased to "He took the picture."

Question. The villages of Africa lit their crop fields on fire and them
A B C
were able to eradicate the locust swarm. No Error
D E

Answer. C: This sentence is using an indirect object version of they (them) instead of "they" when it is the subject of the second portion of the compound sentence. They are executing the action of eradicating the swarm.

Question. The mistakes made by me in my freshman year were numerous.

- A. The mistakes made by me in my freshman year were numerous.
- B. I made numerous mistakes in my freshman year.
- C. I made in my freshman year mistakes that were numerous.
- D. They were numerous, the mistakes I made in freshman year.
- E. I made mistakes numerously in freshman year.

Answer. B: This is clearly passive voice. The "mistakes" are the direct objects and "I" should be the direct objects instead. We should make "I" the subject and "mistakes" the indirect objects and that leaves us option B, C, and E. E uses "numerously" incorrectly. C has an extra clause and

places the preposition phrase in the middle awkwardly. B is the best option.