



SVIODO

(Indirect and Direct Object)

Grammar > Intermediate 5



Exercise 1 – Learning

We learned the **SVO** sentence structure. The object in an **SVO** sentence is actually a **direct object** (it is the thing that receives the action).

- Students ask **questions**. (*What do the students ask? - 'Questions'*)

Sometimes we want to specify the person/people who receive the direct object. In this case, we use an **indirect object**.

- Students ask **the teacher** questions. (*Who do the students ask questions? - 'The teacher'*)

Both types of objects are affected by the action, but the **direct object** answers the question '**what?**' and the **indirect object** answers '**for whom?**' and '**to whom?**'.

This is **SVIODO** sentence pattern:

Subject + Verb + Indirect Object + Direct Object.

Ex: I give somebody something.



Indirect Object Pronouns

In English, the indirect object pronouns are the same as the direct object pronouns.

- He cooks **me** dinner.
- I cook **us** dinner.
- Your friend cooks **you** dinner.
- Bob cooks **him/her/it** dinner.
- Susan cooks **them** dinner.

When NOT to use the SVIODO pattern?

Sometimes it is more natural to use '**to**' or '**for**' instead of **SVIODO**.

Avoid **SVIODO** with more than one pronoun. Take this sentence for example:

'I give the dog a cookie'.

I give it it. (*confusing sentence*) → I give a cookie **to** it. (*natural sentence*)

I give it it. (*confusing sentence*) → I give it **to** the dog. (*natural sentence*)



Avoid **SVIODO** with less common verbs or verb phrases.

Only use **SVIODO** with common verbs similar to '**give**', such as '**lend**', '**pay**', '**send**', '**throw**', '**bring**', '**cook**' (food for someone), and '**sing**' (a song for someone).

Susan works her family two jobs. (*confusing sentence*) → Susan works two jobs **for** her family. (*natural sentence*)

I turn off him the TV. (*confusing sentence*) → I turn off the TV **for** him. (*natural sentence*)



Exercise 2 – Ordering

Put the words into the correct order.

Example: I dogs give stray food. → I give stray dogs food.

Content:

1. I cook dinner us.
2. The us waiter serves lunch.
3. Students ask questions the to teacher.
4. us for dinner cook I.
5. questions ask the teacher Students.
6. my give I grandchildren presents.
7. Sarah her shoes buys.
8. I them read books.



Exercise 3 – Sentence Construction

Use what you learned in class to create sentences with your tutor.

Example: give, food. → I give my baby food.

Content:

1. lend, money.
2. teach, Russian.
3. cook, lunch.
4. buy, clothes.
5. send, flowers.
6. sing, a song.