

Understanding the Parts of a Sentence

English Parts of a Sentence

Subject | Predicate | Direct Object | Indirect Object
Object of the Preposition | Transitive Verbs and
Intransitive Verbs
Linking Verbs | Complements | Exercises

The DIRECT OBJECT

A direct object is a **person** or **thing** that is affected by the action of the **verb**. You could say that the direct object "**receives the action** of the verb."

"He broke **the window**."

What was affected by the action?
The window was.

So "**the window**" is the direct object.



"The ball hit **her**."



What did the ball hit? It hit her.

So "**her**" is the direct object.

"He is making a **pancake**."



What is he making? A pancake.

So "**a pancake**" is the direct object.

"Lucky noticed **the bone**."



What did Lucky notice? The bone.

So "**the bone**" is the direct object.

"The boy loves **his father**."



Whom does the boy love? His father.

So "**his father**" is the direct object.

"She said **the right answer.**"



What did she say? The right answer.

So "**the right answer**" is the direct object.

"She gave **a gift**."



What did she give? A gift.

So "**a gift**" is the direct object.

"He got a gift."



What did he get? A gift.

So "**a gift**" is the direct object.

Additional examples (the direct object is in bold):

Tim fixed **the computer** yesterday.

I hated **that movie** so much.

We built **a castle** on the beach.

You bought **the same hat** last week.

Joan is doing **her homework** right now.

I've made **a promise**.

The INDIRECT OBJECT

An **indirect object** is a **person** or **thing** that the action is **done to** or **for**.

The **indirect object** usually comes just **before** the **direct object**.

You could also say that the indirect object is the **receiver** of the direct object.

"He gave **his mother** flowers."



To whom did he give the flowers? To his mother.

So "**his mother**" is the indirect object.

"He baked **his family** some cookies."



For whom did he bake some cookies? For his family.

So "**his family**" is the indirect object.

"Jack is telling **them** the news."



To whom is he telling the news? To them.

So "**them**" is the indirect object.

"Barney is writing **Fred** a letter."



To whom is Barney writing a letter? To Fred.

So "**Fred**" is the indirect object.

"She wrote **me** a message."



To whom did she write a message? To me.

So "**me**" is the indirect object.

"I made **you** this kit."



For whom did I made this kit? For you.

So "**you**" is the indirect object.

"Susan is writing **herself** a note."



To whom is Susan writing a note? To herself.

So "**herself**" is the indirect object.

"He bought **his friend** a present."



For whom did he buy a present? For his friend.

So "**his friend**" is the indirect object.

Additional examples (the indirect object is in bold):

Tim made **Joan** a sandwich for lunch.

I told **you** what to do.

We built **him** a castle on the beach.

You bought **her** the same hat last week.

Joan is writing **me** a letter right now.

I've made **Shannon** a promise.

Is it a **direct object** OR an **indirect object**?

How can you tell a **direct object** from an **indirect object**?

Here are some tips to help you:

- 1) A **direct object** **receives the action** of the verb. In other words, it is directly affected by it.
- 2) An **indirect object** is **the receiver** of the direct object, and *it usually comes just before it*.

"He gave **his mother** **flowers**."

The verb is "gave."

What is directly affected by this action?
The flowers. *They are given!*

So "flowers" is the **direct object**.

Who receives the flowers? *His mother.*

So "his mother" is the **indirect object**.

You can see that the **indirect object** ("his mother")
is located just before the **direct object** ("flowers").



"He baked **his family** **some cookies**."

The verb is "baked."

What is directly affected by this action?
The cookies. *They were baked!*

So "some cookies" is the **direct object**.

Who will receive the cookies? *His family*.

So "his family" is the **indirect object**.

You can see that the **indirect object** ("his family")
is located just before the **direct object** ("some cookies").



"Jack is telling **them** **the news**."

The verb is "is telling."

What is directly affected by this action?
The news. *It is being told!*

So "the news" is the **direct object**.

Who is receiving the news? *They are.*

So "them" is the **indirect object**.

You can see that the **indirect object** ("them")
is located just before the **direct object** ("the news").



"Barney is writing **Fred** a letter."

The verb is "is writing."

What is directly affected by this action?
The letter. *It is being written!*

So "the letter" is the **direct object**.

Who is receiving the letter? *Fred is.*

So "Fred" is the **indirect object**.

You can see that the **indirect object** ("Fred")
is located just before the **direct object** ("the letter").



"She wrote **me** a message."

The verb is "wrote."

What is directly affected by this action?
The message. *It was written!*

So "a message" is the **direct object**.

Who receives the message? *I do.*

So "me" is the **indirect object**.

You can see that the **indirect object** ("me")
is located just before the **direct object** ("a message").



"I made **you** **this kit**."

The verb is "made."

What is directly affected by this action?

The kit. *It was made!*

So "this kit" is the **direct object**.

Who receives the kit? *You are.*

So "you" is the **indirect object**.

You can see that the **indirect object** ("you") is located just before the **direct object** ("this kit").



"Susan is writing **herself** **a note**."

The verb is "is writing."

What is directly affected by this action?
The note. *It is being written!*

So "a note" is the **direct object**.

Who receives the note? *She does.*

So "herself" is the **indirect object**.

You can see that the **indirect object** ("herself")
is located just before the **direct object** ("a note").



"He bought **his friend** **a present**."

The verb is "bought."

What is directly affected by this action?
The present. *It was bought!*

So "a present" is the **direct object**.

Who will receive the present? *His friend will.*

So "his friend" is the **indirect object**.

You can see that the **indirect object** ("his friend")
is located just before the **direct object** ("a present").



The

OBJECT OF THE PREPOSITION

The object of the preposition is a **noun** or a **pronoun** that completes its meaning.

"The cat is looking at the **fish**."



Example 1:

She is thinking about.

This sentence is INCOMPLETE. We don't know what she is thinking about.

Here is the complete version:

*She is thinking about your **idea**.*

This sentence is COMPLETE. "Idea" is the object of the preposition "about."

Example 2:

Be careful with.

This sentence is INCOMPLETE. We don't know what we should be careful with.

Here is the complete version:

*Be careful with the hot **water**.*

This sentence is COMPLETE. "Water" is the object of the preposition "with."

Example 3:

Emma gave the book to.

This sentence is INCOMPLETE. We don't know whom she gave the book to.

Here is the complete version:

*Emma gave the book to **Ronnie**.*

This sentence is COMPLETE. "Ronnie" is the object of the preposition "to."

Example 4:

Ronnie is doing it for.

This sentence is INCOMPLETE. We don't know whom is Ronnie doing it for.

Here is the complete version:

*Ronnie is doing it for **Emma**.*

This sentence is COMPLETE. "Emma" is the object of the preposition "for."

Do not *confuse* the indirect object with the object of the preposition

Have a look at the following examples:

*Emma gave **Ronnie** the book.*

*Emma gave the book to **Ronnie**.*

In the FIRST sentence Ronnie is the **indirect object**.

In the SECOND sentence Ronnie is the **object of the preposition**.

And by the way, these two sentences basically have the same meaning.

HOW can you TELL if a word is an indirect object or the object of the preposition?

If it comes just AFTER a preposition – then it's the **object of the preposition**.

If it does NOT come just after a preposition – then it's an **indirect object**.

Also, the **indirect object** is usually followed by the direct object. The **object of the preposition** does not.

Now that you know about direct and indirect objects, and objects of the preposition it is time to practice! Follow the links below and take the quiz. Send screenshots of your scores of at least **70%** to your respective TL's email.

Direct and Indirect Objects:

http://www.softschools.com/quizzes/grammar/indirect_objects/quiz548.html

http://www.quia.com/quiz/639643.html?AP_rand=920739898

THE END!



Resource used for this material: Really-Learn-English.com. 2010-2014