

Language Generator 7—Помогать (To Help)

Use this universal language generator to say who helps whom to do what. The verb *помогать* (to help) never has a direct object, only an indirect object. This indirect object should be in the dative case. (Some grammars state that its direct object should be in the dative case, but this is just a different perspective.)

The reason it does not take a direct object is that when you are helping someone your effort is not generally exerted on the person himself, it is exerted on his problem. The person you are helping is the indirect object in the same way he would be if you were giving him a pencil.

| Subject and Verb | Indirect Object | Optional Verbal Phrase |
|---|-----------------|--|
| Кто помога́ет Who helps | кому whom | написа́ть писа́мó. to write a letter. |
| Я помога́ю I help | мне me | чита́ть стих. to read a verse. |
| Мы помога́ем We help | нам us | покра́сить стéну. to paint the wall. |
| Ты помога́ешь Thou helpest | тебе thee | откры́ть ба́нку. to open an can. |
| Вы помога́ете You help | вам us | найти́ отве́т. to find an answer. |
| Он/Она/Оно помога́ет He/She/It helps | ему him | гото́вить у́жин. to prepare dinner. |
| Они́ помога́ют They help | ей her | вста́ть. to get up. |
| Ива́н помога́ет John helps | им them | прине́сти во́ду. to bring water. |
| А́нна помога́ет Anna helps | Ива́ну John | |
| | А́нне Anna | |

As shown in the last column, a verb phrase may be added to specify the task with which help is needed. This phrase should be in the infinitive. (The verb should remain in dictionary form.)

There are other verbs which do not take direct objects. Some of the more commonly used ones are:

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| ве́рить | to believe |
| вредíть | to cause harm |
| зави́довать | to envy |
| меша́ть | to hinder |
| напомина́ть | to remind |
| повинова́ться | to obey, to subject oneself |
| позволя́ть | to allow |
| сове́товать | to advise, to offer counsel |
| служи́ть | to serve |

In each of these cases if we look hard enough we can identify three sides to the action: the one who acts, the action taken, and the person affected by it. The person affected by it is considered the indirect object and is named in the dative case.