

33 Verbs with two objects

Activity A

Who did what to whom?

Certain verbs in English take two objects. This means that we can make sentences such as *He paid a compliment to the actress* or *He paid the actress a compliment*. In this example the verb 'pay' is used with the direct object 'a compliment' and the indirect object 'the actress'. Read the following sentences and complete them with a suitable verb in the correct form.

Complete the sentences. Identify the objects.

- 1 He _____ me some good advice yesterday.
- 2 Could you _____ me the salt, please?
- 3 I'll _____ you the information by email.
- 4 She _____ a message for her husband to tell him about the party.
- 5 My dad _____ me a tree house when I was a child.
- 6 I was so pleased when he _____ me the job.
- 7 He _____ the detective £100 to follow his wife.
- 8 That mistake _____ him his job.
- 9 When she's happy she _____ us her favourite songs.
- 10 He _____ a lot of people money and won't be able to pay it back.

Now check whether the verbs you've chosen are in the box below.

sing	leave	pay	send	offer
pass	cost	owe	give	build

You could also put a circle around the direct object and a box around the indirect object.

Activity B

Most of the sentences above follow the structure verb + indirect object + direct object but we can very often write the same sentences using verb + direct object + preposition + indirect object. Example: *He left his granddaughter money in his will* OR *He left money to his granddaughter in his will*. The preposition used tends to be 'to' or 'for'. In each of the following sentences choose the correct preposition. Be careful - ~~in~~ some cases **both** 'to' and 'for' are possible.

- 1 I'm surprised that they lent the car **to/for** their cousin.
- 2 The coach taught the new stretching exercises **to/for** the team.
- 3 It was a big shock that she sold her wedding ring **to/for** that man.
- 4 Could you make a coffee **to/for** our guest, please?
- 5 As her eyesight was getting worse, I decided to read the letter **to/for** her.
- 6 She played the track **to/for** me about 20 times until I had learned the tune.
- 7 Everyone applauded when they gave the prize **to/for** the winning team.
- 8 He posted three parcels **to/for** me but only one arrived.

Check your answers.

In which sentences can both prepositions be used? Discuss with another student. Does changing the preposition change the meaning or is it the same? Check your answers in the dictionary.