

# Direct and Indirect Objects

# Direct Objects

# How to Find a Direct Object

- 1. Find action verb
- 2. Ask “who?” or “what?”

after the action verb

One of the questions will be answered if there is a direct object.

Example: Mary sang a **song**.

1. The action is “sang.”
2. Sang who? Sang what? The second question is answered. The answer “song” is my direct object.

# How to Find a Direct Object

Try another one:

Example: We visited **Virginia Beach**.

1. The action verb is “visited.”
2. Visited who? Visited what? The second question is answered. That means that “Virginia Beach” is my direct object.

# How to Find a Direct Object

- Direct objects can also be compound.
- If they are compound, there will be a conjunction such as “and,” “but,” or “or” connecting the two compounds.

Example: We saw **Mary** and **Mark** at the zoo.

1. The action verb is “saw.”
2. Saw who? Saw what? The first question is answered. That means that both Mary, Mark are direct objects.

# How to find Direct Objects

- In a question, sentence parts are inverted. That means they are not in their usual location. In a question, one of two things may happen:
  - 1. The direct object may appear before the verb

# How to Find Direct Objects

Example:

DO HV S MV

Which **coat** did you bring to school?

1. The action verb is did bring.
2. Did bring who? Did bring what? The answer is coat; therefore it is the direct object.

# Indirect Objects



# How to Find an Indirect Object

- 1. Find the action verb
- 2. Ask “who?” or “what?” after the action verb.

(If you get answers to both questions then you have found both a direct object and an indirect object. The “who?” will be the indirect object and it will come after the action verb. The “what?” will be the direct object and it will come after the indirect object. The sentence pattern will always be S – V- IO- DO.)

Example: Mom gave me a cookie.

1. The action verb is “gave.”
2. Gave who? Me. Gave what? Cookie. Both of these questions received an answer. That means that “me” is the indirect object and “cookie” is the direct object.

# How to Find an Indirect Object

- Another example:

Lucy brought **her** a present.

1. The action verb is brought.
2. Brought who? her Brought what? a present Since both questions had answers, you have found both a direct object and an indirect object. “Her” is the IO. “Present” is a DO.

# Objective Complements

- An object complement is an noun, pronoun, or adjective which follows a direct object and **renames it or tells what the direct object has become**. It is most often used with verbs of creating or nominating such as make, name, elect, paint, call, etc.

# OC Examples

- When the word follows the direct object and it tells what the direct object has become, it is the object complement. Sometimes people call it an *objective complement*.
- Since he won the election, we are now calling Williams *Mayor*.
- They are painting the kitchen door *red*.
- They will name the street *Franklin*.

# Practice: Locate the OC(s)

- NASA found the astronauts healthy and cheerful.
- 2. Special circumstances can make ordinary people heroes.
- 3. The group appointed the new member secretary.
- 4. We have always considered you capable of great things.
- 5. The minister pronounced the young couple man and wife.