

## Indirect Objects

**15i.** An *indirect object* is a noun, pronoun, or word group that often appears in sentences containing direct objects. An indirect object tells to *whom* or to *what* (or *for whom* or *for what*) the action of the verb is done.

**EXAMPLES** The librarian handed **me** the pile of books to reshelve.  
 Has the senator given the **League of Women Voters** his answers?  
 Furnish the **jurors** a copy of this map for use in their deliberations.

**EXERCISE A** In each of the following sentences, underline each indirect object.

**Example 1.** Amy Tan shows readers her world.

- In her books, Amy Tan provides her fans a glimpse into her own Chinese heritage.
- Tan gives her audience stories that are based on her family history.
- Many stories that she heard while growing up furnish the author material for her books.
- In her book *The Joy Luck Club*, Tan shows readers the relationship between Chinese American mothers and their daughters.
- Relationships among her own family members gave her the inspiration for the book.
- In the dedication of *The Joy Luck Club*, Tan gives her mother the assurance that she has not forgotten her Chinese heritage.
- The author also offers her editor, her agent, and her family thanks for their encouragement.
- Book reviewers afford Tan much critical acclaim for her first efforts as a novelist.
- Throughout her books, she presents the public a new and refreshing point of view.
- Her second novel, *The Kitchen God's Wife*, also has won Tan critical praise.

**EXERCISE B** In the following sentences, underline indirect objects once and direct objects twice.

**Example 1.** Who gave N. Scott Momaday another name?

- Tsoai-talee, a mountain sacred to the Kiowa, provides Momaday that name.
- Anglo-Americans have given this Wyoming mountain the name Devil's Tower.
- My teacher told us the story of Momaday's name and of its meaning, which is "Rock-Tree Boy."
- Before Momaday was a year old, one of his father's relatives gave him this name.
- The Pulitzer Prize Committee awarded the writer the 1969 fiction prize for his book *House Made of Dawn*.

## Objective Complements

- 15j.** An *objective complement* is a word or word group that helps complete the meaning of a transitive verb by identifying or modifying the direct object.

An objective complement may be a noun, a pronoun, or an adjective. Only a few verbs can take an objective complement: *consider*, *make*, and verbs that can be replaced by *consider* or *make*, such as *appoint*, *call*, *choose*, *elect*, *keep*, *name*, *cut*, *paint*, and *sweep*.

**EXAMPLES** The judges called Jeremy the most promising **pianist** at the recital.

We wanted Caroline as our representative, but they elected her **theirs**.

Sweep the kitchen floor **clean** and keep it **shiny** with a light coat of wax.

What beautiful **shades** of blue the students painted those posters!

**EXERCISE A** In each of the following sentences, decide whether each underlined word is an objective complement. If it is, write *OC* above the word. If it is not, find the objective complement and circle it.

**Example 1.** Ayita named her brother the sales manager.

- The manufacturers called their product the greatest invention since the toaster.
- My parents consider my sister and me dependable.
- The student council reelected Carlos president this year.
- After lunch, Deandra wiped the table and the countertops clean.
- The athletic committee named Kimama "Outstanding Athlete of the Year."
- How useless the electrical storm rendered our computers!
- Mr. Peterson considers Italian, French, or Latin excellent preparation for college.
- My brother appointed me official guardian and protector of his baseball card collection.
- The managing director appointed Ms. Latham assistant director.
- What a successful student her determination made her!

**EXERCISE B** Underline the objective complements in the sentences below.

**Example 1.** Would your grandfather declare this dish first-rate or top-notch?

- My grandfather called Julia's lasagna delicious.
- Granddad finds eating both necessary and pleasurable.
- His friends dubbed him "The Connoisseur" because he always makes some remark about his food.
- Granddad appointed my sister Julia tester and taster of his new recipes.
- How fulfilling and "filling" she considers the experience!

## Direct and Indirect Objects and Objective Complements

- 15h.** A *direct object* is a noun, pronoun, or word group that tells who or what receives the action of the verb or that shows the result of the action.
- 15i.** An *indirect object* is a noun, pronoun, or word group that tells *to whom* or *to what* (or *for whom* or *for what*) the action of the verb is done.
- 15j.** An *objective complement* is a word or word group that helps complete the meaning of a transitive verb by identifying or modifying the direct object.

**EXERCISE A** In each of the following sentences, decide what type of complement the underlined word is. Above the word, write *DO* for *direct object*, *IO* for *indirect object*, or *OC* for *objective complement*.

**Example 1.** Sara could not explain her <sup>*DO*</sup> forgetfulness.

1. By the turn of the century, how many apartments filled the island of Manhattan?
2. The photographer gave us one of the pictures she had taken of the school.
3. Sweep the chimney clean at least once a year and the firebox after each use.
4. Please do not send any more of these samples unless someone requests them.
5. Ms. Van Sterben deemed her faithful nurse worthy of a share of the fortune.
6. Had she allowed herself and her staff any spare time for emergencies?
7. What folly future historians may consider many twentieth-century “innovations”!
8. In addition, this housing provides the immigrants few extras.
9. The director and the cast discussed the first act but decided not to change it.
10. Who would award an architect a prize for an undesirable structure?

**EXERCISE B** Identify each complement in the following sentences. Underline once each direct object, underline twice each indirect object, and circle each objective complement.

**Example 1.** The energetic child pushed the door open.

11. Roberto took a huge bite out of the sandwich.
12. Everyone congratulated Nancy on her award.
13. Dad lent Wally his car for the evening.
14. Jane always likes her vegetables well cooked.
15. The mayor quickly issued the public a statement regarding his decision.