

Objects: Direct and Indirect Objects

2j. A **direct object** is a noun, pronoun, or word group that tells *who* or *what* receives the action of a transitive verb or shows the result of the action.

A direct object answers the question “Whom?” or “What?” after a transitive verb.

EXAMPLE We sent some **flowers** to Aunt Grace. [Sent what? *Flowers*.]

2k. 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 a transitive verb is done.

EXAMPLE Russell offered **her** the tickets. [Offered the tickets to whom? *Her*.]

EXERCISE A Decide whether the underlined words in the following sentences are direct objects or indirect objects. Above each object, write *DO* for *direct object* or *IO* for *indirect object*.

Example 1. Please take ^{*IO*} him these sandwiches.

- The committee chairperson gave her the gavel.
- Our pool’s lifeguard left Manuelo the free passes.
- The interview will give Emily a chance to visit the college.
- The algebra teacher lent her a new ruler.
- Aerobic dancing provided us an opportunity for vigorous exercise.
- The track star jumped hurdles and ran relays during the meet.
- The pet store owner gave the puppy a bone.
- The doctor prescribed penicillin for the child’s illness.
- The counselor offered the students some advice.
- Their discovery of radium and polonium earned Pierre and Marie Curie the Nobel Prize in physics.

EXERCISE B In the following sentences, underline the indirect objects once and the direct objects twice. Not every sentence contains an indirect object.

Example 1. She sent me a book about woodworking.

- Kareem taught his sister an African American folk song.
- The president signed the energy bill after the congressional vote.
- The Lions Club awarded Mrs. Rosa a silver tray for community service.
- The tree branch struck the car’s windshield with a crash.
- Toni Morrison read the audience an excerpt from her novel.