

Direct / Indirect Object

In a sentence, the subject and verb may be followed by an object. An **object** is a noun or pronoun that gives meaning to the subject and verb of the sentence. Not all sentences contain objects, but some may contain one or more. There are two kinds of objects within a sentence: **direct** and **indirect objects**.

- I. A **direct object** is a noun or pronoun that receives the action of a verb.

Daniel repairs computers.
direct object

Try this technique when determining the location of the **direct object** in the above sentence:

- 1) First locate the subject and verb in the sentence. The subject in the above sentence is “Daniel” and the verb is “repairs.”
- 2) Now ask yourself the questions *What?* or *Whom?* about the verb “repairs.”
- 3) *What does the subject, **Daniel**, repair?* Daniel repairs computers.

- II. An **indirect object** is the noun or pronoun for whom the action is done. The **indirect object** can be located between the action verb and the direct object within a sentence.

Daniel gave me a computer.
indirect object

- 1) First locate the subject (*Daniel*) and the verb (*gave*).
- 2) Now ask yourself the questions *To Whom?* *To What?* *For Whom?* or *For What?* about the subject and verb.
- 3) *To whom does the subject, **Daniel**, give a computer?* Daniel gave me a computer.

Susan gave me her notes. (*To whom did Susan give her notes? me*)
indirect object

*In the following exercise, underline the direct objects once and underline the indirect objects twice. **Not all sentences will contain direct and indirect objects.*

- 1) We ate steak for dinner.
- 2) Snow and ice covered the streets.
- 3) She gives Jacob violin lessons.
- 4) Everyone loves candy.
- 5) The teacher gave us an assignment.
- 6) The children are playing.
- 7) I brought Diane a balloon.
- 8) Can you send me a letter?
- 9) The baby needs a nap.
- 10) The students asked the teacher many questions.

Answers

- 1) *Direct object:* steak
- 2) *Direct object:* the streets
- 3) *Direct object:* violin lessons *Indirect object:* Jacob
- 4) *Direct object:* candy
- 5) *Direct object:* an assignment *Indirect object:* us
- 6) *No direct or indirect object*
- 7) *Direct object:* a balloon *Indirect object:* Diane
- 8) *Direct object:* a letter *Indirect object:* me
- 9) *Direct object:* a nap
- 10) *Direct object:* many questions *Indirect object:* the teacher