

Direct and Indirect Object

What is an object?

An **object** in grammar is a part of a sentence, and often part of the **predicate**. It refers to someone or something involved in the **subject**'s "performance" of the verb. It is what the verb is being done to. As an example, the following sentence is given:

Subject	Verb	Object
Leila	wrote	the poem

- "Leila" is the **subject**, the doer or performer,
- "wrote" is a **verb** that refers to the action,
- "the poem" is the object involved in the action.

Transitive and intransitive verbs

A verb can be classified as **transitive** or **intransitive** according to whether it takes or doesn't take an object:

- If a verb takes objects, then it is a **transitive verb**.
Example:
They played **soccer**. → (The verb **play** takes ONE object '**soccer**')
They sent **him a postcard**. → (The verb **send** takes TWO objects '**him**' and '**a postcard**')
- If a verb doesn't take an object, then it is **an intransitive verb**.
Example:
She lies. → (The verb '**lie**' doesn't take any object)
The building collapsed. → (The verb '**collapse**' doesn't take any object)

Types of objects

There are two types of objects: **direct** and **indirect objects**:

Direct object

A direct object answers the question "what?" or "who?"

Examples:

- David *repaired his car* → **his car** is the **direct object** of the verb *repaired*. (What did David repair?)
- He *invited Mary to the party* → **Mary** is the **direct object** of the verb *invited*. (Who did he invite?)

Indirect Object

An indirect object answers the question "to whom?", "for whom?"

An indirect object is the recipient of the direct object, or an otherwise affected participant in the event. There must be a direct object for an indirect object to be placed in a sentence. In other words an indirect object cannot exist without a direct object.

Examples:

- They sent him a postcard - **him** is the **indirect object** of the verb *sent*. (*To whom* did they send a postcard?)
- He bought his son a bike - **his son** is the **indirect object** of the verb *bought*. (*For whom* did he buy a bike?)

Decide whether the words in bold are subjects, direct objects or indirect objects

1. She sent **her friend** an email .
2. Sally will help **you** with your housework.
3. Where did **you** put the keys?
4. He gave **them** a bag full of money.
5. **Alice** wrote a book on the French revolution.
6. I need **your help**.
7. He offered her **a flower**.
8. My father bought **us** a new TV set.
9. John sold me **his car**.
10. I wish **you** good luck

