

3 Direct and indirect objects

1 Introduction



Henry gave Claire some flowers.

Here the verb *give* has two objects. *Claire* is the indirect object, the person receiving something. *Some flowers* is the direct object, the thing that someone gives.

Henry gave some flowers to Claire.

Here *give* has a direct object (*some flowers*) and a phrase with *to*. *To* comes before *Claire*, the person receiving something.

Here are some more examples of the two structures.

	INDIRECT OBJECT	DIRECT OBJECT		DIRECT OBJECT	PHRASE WITH TO/FOR
<i>Emma gave</i>	<i>Rachel</i>	<i>a CD.</i>	<i>Emma gave</i>	<i>the CD</i>	<i>to Rachel.</i>
<i>I'll send</i>	<i>my cousin</i>	<i>a postcard.</i>	<i>I'll send</i>	<i>a postcard</i>	<i>to my cousin.</i>
<i>We bought</i>	<i>all the children</i>	<i>an ice-cream.</i>	<i>We bought</i>	<i>ice-creams</i>	<i>for all the children.</i>

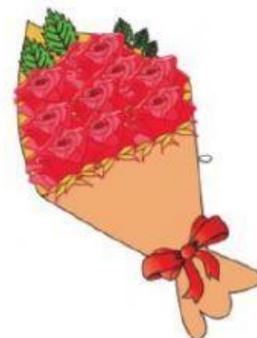
Finding Direct Objects

A direct object is a word or phrase denoting the receiver of the action of a verb. It answers the question "what" or "who"

Example: Elizabeth wrote an article for the school magazine.

Underline the direct object in each sentence.

- 1) Mom baked me a pumpkin pie.
- 2) The Jeremys bought him a few souvenirs from their holiday in Chile.
- 3) The company hasn't offered her the job yet.
- 4) Sean gave his mom a gift .
- 5) The huge python devoured the crocodile.
- 6) Grandpa hugs Benjamin every day.
- 7) Kenny brought his sister a big bouquet of roses.



Finding Indirect Objects

An indirect object is a person or thing that the action of a verb is performed for or directed to. It is also the recipient of the direct object.

Example: Mike passed me the ball.

Underline the indirect object in each sentence.

- 1) Alex gave him a ride to the station.
- 2) Kevin showed Ms. Adams his project.
- 3) Little Nathan drew his dad a picture.
- 4) They bought me some CDs.
- 5) Louise cooked her sister a nice meal.
- 6) Arianne sent her a postcard from Berlin.
- 7) The teacher gave the class a new project.
- 8) Roarke bought them return gifts.



Identifying Direct and Indirect Objects

Underline the direct object, and circle the indirect object.

Example: Katie gave me candies.

- 1) The company has sent me an email.
- 2) My dad gave me fifty dollars.
- 3) Grandma will cook my friends a delicious meal.
- 4) Bob built his children a treehouse in the backyard.
- 5) I read the old man an article from the newspaper.
- 6) Did Gerald bring you the new book?
- 7) Mom left Sara two oranges.
- 8) The teacher told us funny stories.
- 9) I showed Aunt Shine my wedding pictures.



