

Direct and indirect objects



Juanita, give **him** **the ball**, please.

Language focus

Use **direct and indirect objects** to talk about things or people affected by the action of the verb.

Subject	Verb	Indirect object	Direct object
Jeremy	<i>gave</i>	<i>David</i>	<i>the book.</i>
<i>I</i>	<i>made</i>	<i>my sister</i>	<i>a sandwich.</i>
<i>Don't</i>	<i>show</i>	<i>me</i>	<i>the answer.</i>

The direct object is the person or thing affected by the action of the verb. It answers the question **what**, e.g. *What did Jeremy give to David?*

The indirect object is also the person or thing affected by the action of the verb; it answers the question **who**, e.g. *Who did Jeremy give the book to?*

We sometimes put the indirect object at the end of the sentence, where it usually follows the prepositions **to** and **for**.

*Jeremy gave the book **to David**.* *Don't show the answer **to me**.*

*I made a sandwich **for my sister**.*

1 Replace the underlined words with object pronouns.

1 My brother and I gave a necklace to Mel. My brother and I gave it to her.

2 She gave the book to Stan and Toni. _____

3 They gave the book to Tim. _____

4 He gave the book to his mother. _____

5 She gave the book to my father. _____

6 He gave the book to my brother and me. _____

2 Rewrite the sentences with the words in the correct order.

1 Show / the bracelet, / me / please / .

Show me the bracelet, please.

2 Don't / the story / to / tell / Juan / .

3 You must / the dress / buy / Gabriella / for / .

4 I gave / the belt / Wang Li / to / .

5 I bought / Sheila / for / a hat / .

6 Sarah / me / gave / the necklace / .

3 Complete the story with the pronouns *it, her, them, us* and *me*.

Mr James and the Bag of Sweets

'Give (1) them to (2) _____, please,' said Mr James.

'But the sweets are Sandra's, Mr James,' said Sonny.

'Yes, I know the sweets are Sandra's, but don't give (3) _____ back to (4) _____. It's not break time. You know the rule.'

'Yes, Mr James, I know (5) _____; you remind (6) _____ all every day – we mustn't eat sweets in class.'

'Anything,' said Mr James. 'You mustn't eat anything in class. Come on, then. Sandra can have (7) _____ back at break time.'

I gave Mr James the bag of sweets and sat in my chair. Five minutes later, I looked up from my Maths book.

'Mr James!' I said. 'You're eating (8) _____. But you said ...'

'Yes, I know I did, Sonny,' said Mr James, smiling, 'but they really are very nice sweets.'

