

74 Verbs with two objects



We had a lot of heavy rain this year so we bought the children some rubber boots.



1 Person + thing

Some verbs can have two objects; one is usually a person and the other is usually a thing. Some verbs with two objects are: *bring, buy, give, make, lend, offer, pay, send, show, teach, tell, throw, write*.

We usually put the person object first:

SUBJECT	VERB	OBJECT (person)	OBJECT (thing)
We	bought	the children / them	some boots.
Harry	sent	Sally / her	some flowers.
Lianne	showed	Mike / him	her new laptop.
Jasmine	didn't tell	the students / them	a story.

! We don't use *for* or *to* when the person object comes first:

~~X Harry sent to Sally / her some flowers.~~

✓ Harry sent Sally / her some flowers.

2 Thing + person

We can also put the 'thing' object first. Then we need to use *for* or *to*:

SUBJECT	VERB	OBJECT (thing)	PREPOSITION + OBJECT (person)
We	bought	some boots	for the children / for them.
Harry	sent	some flowers	to Sally / to her.
Lianne	showed	her new laptop	to Mike / to him.
Jasmine	didn't tell	a story	to the students / to them.

We use *to* after most of the verbs in the list above, but we use *for* after *buy* and *make*.

! For some verbs (e.g. *explain, describe* and *translate*) we always put the 'thing' object first:

~~X The teacher explained me the grammar.~~

✓ The teacher explained the grammar to me.

Practice

1 Choose the correct words in *italics*.

- 0 We sent (her) / *to her* the tickets.
- 1 Can you bring the dictionary *me* / *to me*?
- 2 Come in. I'll show *you* / *to you* our wedding photos.
- 3 Can you explain the answer *me* / *to me*?
- 4 The teacher translated the text *us* / *for us*.
- 5 I'll send *the hotel* / *to the hotel* an email to check the prices.
- 6 The café is giving a free cake *all its customers* / *to all its customers* tomorrow.

2 Change the sentences to use a different word order. Add the preposition *to* if necessary.

- 0 Can you pay her the money? *Can you pay the money to her?*
- 00 I haven't shown the photos to Dad yet. *I haven't shown Dad the photos yet.*
- 1 We're giving flowers to Mum for her birthday.
- 2 Allan teaches engineers English literature.
- 3 I'll buy a coffee for you after dinner.
- 4 They've offered Alexis the job!
- 5 Throw the baby a ball – she'll catch it.
- 6 Alison told the children a story.

3 GRAMMAR IN USE Write five more missing words in this conversation.

- SAM I'm not sure about camping now. There's going to be heavy rain this weekend.
- PAULA I can lend some warm coats ^{to} you, if you want.
- SAM Thanks. I'll have to buy some boots the children, too.
- PAULA Don't worry, we can lend the children some boots.
- SAM Great. Oh, I don't have directions to the campsite.
- PAULA That's OK. I can send them you now by email.
- SAM Can you give them Nina? My computer isn't working.
- PAULA Yes, sure. Or I could tell the route now. It isn't very difficult.
- SAM No, email the directions to Nina. That's fine. Shall we bring a football?
- PAULA Yes, good idea, and you can show your skills with the ball all the children!



4 Use the words below to complete the questions. Then write full answers that are true for you.

- 0 when / you / last lend / money / someone?
When did you last lend *money to someone?* *I lent my friend ten euros last week.*
- 1 anyone / ever / send / you / flowers?
Has anyone ever
- 2 what / parents / give / you / for your last birthday?
What did your parents
- 3 who / teach / you / something useful / recently?
Who has taught
- 4 you / ever / tell a lie / a friend?
Have you ever