

74 Verbs with two objects



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:

✗ *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	<i>for the children/ for them.</i>
Harry	sent	some flowers	<i>to Sally/ to her.</i>
Lianne	showed	her new laptop	<i>to Mike/ to him.</i>
Jasmine	didn't tell	a story	<i>to the students / to them.</i>

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:

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

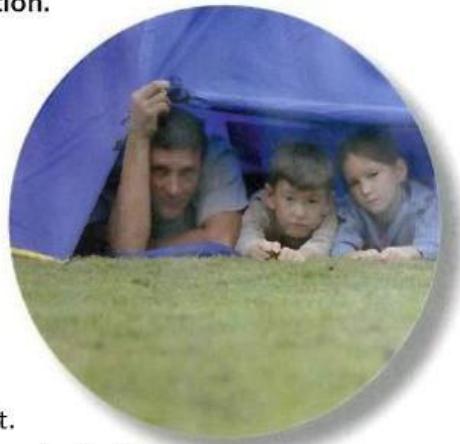
PAULA That's OK. I can send them *you* now by email.

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?