

Grammar

Direct and indirect objects

Verbs without an object

Some verbs only need a subject. They don't need an object.

Form

subject + verb

Example

The flowers grew.
The dog got up.

These verbs include:

fall down

get up

grow

happen

laugh

run away

sit down

sleep

speak

stand up

walk

work

Verbs with one object

Many verbs can be followed by an object.

Form

subject + verb + object

Example

We picked up **the rubbish**.
I've planted **a tree**.

These verbs include:

borrow

close

draw

drink

drive

eat

have

invite

open

paint

pick up

plant

Verbs with two objects

Some verbs can be followed by two objects. One is called the 'direct object' and the other is called the 'indirect object'. The indirect object is usually a person.

In both the examples below, *some flowers* is the direct object and *Jill* is the indirect object.

Form

subject + verb + indirect object + direct object

Example

Simon gave **Jill some flowers**.

subject + verb + direct object + preposition + indirect object

Simon gave **some flowers to Jill**.

These verbs include:

bring

buy

cost

get

give

lend

make

offer

owe

pass

pay

read

send

show

sing

take

teach

tell

throw

write

Helpful hints

- There are two prepositions which often go between the direct object and the indirect object: *to* and *for*.
✓ I bought an umbrella **for** George.
✓ I gave the umbrella **to** George.
- Some of the verbs above can also be used in the passive.
✓ Jill was given some flowers.
✓ Some flowers were given to Jill.



We don't use a preposition if the indirect object comes before the direct object.
✗ Simon gave **to Jill** some flowers.

A Match to make sentences. If a phrase 1–8 cannot be matched with a phrase A–F, put a cross (x) on the line.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 I've never driven | A the window! |
| 2 We're going to have | B some money. |
| 3 Don't close | C a lovely picture. |
| 4 Have you invited | D a tractor. |
| 5 Our rabbit has run away | E lots of people? |
| 6 Of course you can borrow | F a party on Saturday. |
| 7 Clare has drawn | |
| 8 I think I'll sit down | |

B Circle the extra word in each sentence.



- 1 My mum often makes for the old lady who lives next door some soup.
- 2 I won't tell to anyone your secret.
- 3 Sing to us a song!
- 4 Could you bring for me some crisps when you come?
- 5 I think I'll buy for Carl a computer game for his birthday.
- 6 That CD cost to me fifteen euros.
- 7 Dan showed to me his autograph book.

C Rewrite the sentences with the direct object at the end.

- 1 I owe ten euros to Danny.
I owe Danny ten euros.
- 2 Susan hasn't bought a birthday present for her mum yet.
.....
- 3 You should show your new guitar to Mike.
.....
- 4 Did you give that CD to Liz?
.....
- 5 I'd like to teach English to young teenagers.
.....
- 6 Are you going to write a letter to your grandparents?
.....
- 7 Could you take this magazine to your dad?
.....

D Rewrite the sentences with the indirect object at the end.

- 1 I'm going to read the kids a story.
I'm going to read a story to the kids.
- 2 Could you pass Ed the potatoes?
- 3 Throw the dog that bone!
- 4 Why are you sending Aunt June those clothes?
- 5 Steve sang us his new song.
- 6 I'll lend Doug the money.
- 7 I've never told my mum a lie.

E Write one word in each gap. If no word is necessary, put a dash (–).

- 1 My mum is going to write a letter the editor.
- 2 I paid the money the shop assistant and then left.
- 3 Let's get a birthday card your dad.
- 4 I'm not going to tell you the answer!
- 5 I've made some sandwiches you.
- 6 We'll bring you that DVD tonight.
- 7 Tony has bought a book Jake.
- 8 A prize was given the best student.

F If a line is correct, put a tick (✓). If there is an extra word in a line, write the word.



My new hobby

- 1 My uncle loves astronomy. It's his hobby. My aunt recently bought for
- 2 him a new telescope for his birthday, so he gave his old one to me! It's a
- 3 very good telescope. When he bought it, it cost to him over two hundred
- 4 euros! Last weekend, he taught to me the basics. He showed me how to
- 5 look through it, and told to me the names of all the planets. He said he'll
- 6 bring to me a book with more information about the night sky next time
- 7 he comes. Now astronomy is my hobby too. I think I'm going to enjoy it!