



# Direct vs. Indirect Objects

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## Important notice:

At the end of this presentation there is a link to a Google Form quiz. You must score an 80% or higher to pass the quiz.

Please take your time viewing and studying this material before you proceed with the quiz.

# Objectives

- Learn what direct and indirect objects are
- Differentiate between direct objects and indirect objects
- Use direct and indirect objects correctly

# What is an object?

- An object is a noun, a noun phrase or a pronoun that completes the meaning of an action verb.
- Action verbs allow for two types of objects: direct objects and indirect objects.

# Direct Objects

- Receives the action of the verb; it is acted upon by the subject.
- Answers the questions “Whom?” and “What?”
- Can also be seen as the product of the verb action.  
He wrote **a letter**.  
What did he write? A letter  
The letter is the direct object of the verb “to write”.

# Indirect Objects

- Receives or is affected by the outcome of the action verb.
- Answers the questions “To whom? For whom?” and “To what? For what?”

He wrote **Martha** a letter.

To whom did he write a letter? (Formal)

Who did he write a letter to? (Informal)

Martha is the indirect object of the verb “to write”.

# Position

- Both objects come **after the verb**.
- The indirect object always needs a direct object with it. The indirect object usually comes **before** the direct object.  
She gave **her mom** a birthday card.
- The indirect object can also be used with a preposition (“to” or “for”), in which case the indirect object must come **after** the direct object.  
(Incorrect) I wrote **to my sister** a letter.  
(Correct) I wrote a letter **to my sister**.  
(Correct) I wrote **my sister** a letter.

# Position

- **Do not** place a word in between a verb and its direct object, unless it is an indirect object.

(Incorrect) I **wrote** yesterday **a letter** to my sister.

(Correct) I **wrote a letter** to my sister yesterday.

(Correct) Yesterday, I **wrote** my sister **a letter**.



# Object Pronouns

- Are used to replace both the direct object and the indirect object in a sentence.

Grammatical Person	Singular	Plural
<i>1<sup>st</sup> person</i>	Me	Us
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> person</i>	You	You
<i>3<sup>rd</sup> person</i>	Him, her, it	Them

- A few examples using object pronouns:
  - Max gave **me** (indirect object) roses for my birthday.
  - Mark sent **us** (indirect object) an invitation for his wedding.
  - The contract? I sent **it** (direct object) to **you** (indirect object) via email.

# Object Pronouns: Who vs Whom

- “Who” is used as the subject of a verb.
- “Whom” is used as the object of a verb or preposition.
- If you can replace the word with “he” or “she” use *who*; if you can replace the word with “him” or “her”, use *whom*.

**Mark** sent us the contract.      **He** sent us the contract.

**Who** sent us the contract?

Mark sent **Laura** the contract.      Mark sent **her** the contract.

Mark sent the contract to **whom**?

# References

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Para finalizar, haga clic sobre el enlace para tomar la prueba y enviar el informe a su profesor(a):

<https://forms.gle/zmhKMh712Uomoe2c8>

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