Direct vs. Indirect Objects
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
Sentence structure

Subject

Transitive verb

Intransitive Verb

Direct Object

Indirect Object

When, where, how, for how long, with whom (Optional)
A subject

- Is a noun, noun phrase or pronoun that refers to a person, place, animal or thing.
- It is usually the agent of the sentence.
- The agent is the one doing the verb, the one that *performs the action*.
- For example: **My mother** ran to the store to get some last-minute groceries.
A transitive verb

- Is a verb that requires an object.
- There are verbs like “to walk”, “to sleep”, “to dance” that deliver a complete meaning on their own; these are called intransitive verbs.
  ✓ “I danced.”
- Transitive verbs, however, need more information to complete their meaning.
  ✓ For example: “I found…?”
  ✓ The verb “to find” is a transitive verb because, when using that verb, it requires you to say what was found; otherwise, the idea is incomplete.
What is an object?

- An **object** is a noun, a noun phrase or a pronoun that refers to a person, place or thing.
- It is the recipient of the action of a transitive verb.
- Transitive verbs allow for two types of objects: direct objects and indirect objects.
A direct object (DO)

• Is a noun or noun phrase that identifies who or what receives the action of a transitive verb.

• Answers the question “Whom? (formal)/Who? (informal)”
  ✓ I saw Martha (DO).
  ✓ Whom did you see? Martha (DO)
  ✓ Martha is the direct object of the verb “to see”.

• Can also be the product of the action in a question that starts with “What?”.
  ✓ He wrote a letter (DO).
  ✓ What did he write? A letter (DO)
  ✓ A letter is the direct object of the verb “to write”.

Indirect Object (IO)

• Is a noun or a noun phrase that refers to the person or thing that receives the result of a transitive verb.

• If the direct object is the product of the action, the indirect object is the recipient of that product.

• Answers the questions “To whom? For whom?” and “To what? For what?”

  ✓ He wrote Martha (IO) 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*. 
Subject Pronouns

- Personal pronouns refer back to people and things that have already been identified.
- They have different subject and object forms, except for you (sing. or plural) and it: you and it stay the same.
- They can act as the subject of a clause. We use them before a verb to show who is performing the action.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grammatical Person</th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st person</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>We</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd person</td>
<td>You</td>
<td>You</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd person</td>
<td>He, she, it</td>
<td>They</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Object Pronouns (OP)

- Are used to replace the direct object and/or the indirect object in a sentence.
- Personal object pronouns are used after the verb or after a preposition.

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<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Me</td>
<td>Us</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>You</td>
<td>You</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Him, her, it</td>
<td>Them</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

✓ Max gave me (object pronoun) roses for my birthday.
✓ They sent us (object pronoun) an invitation for the wedding.
✓ The contract? I sent it (object pronoun) to you (object pronoun) via email.
Subject Pronouns (SP) and Object Pronouns (OP)

• I, me
  ➢ *I* and *me* refer to the speaker or writer. *I* is the subject form and *me* is the object form.
  ➢ *I* (SP) like you. Do you like *me* (OP)?

• You
  ➢ *You* refers to the listener or reader. It is both the subject and the object form. You can refer to one person or more than one person.
  ➢ The context let us know if it’s singular or plural.
  ➢ *You* (SP) overslept. I told *you* (OP) to go to sleep early.
Subject Pronouns (SP) and Object Pronouns (OP)

• **He, him**
  - Singular third person masculine pronouns. *He* is the subject form and *him* is the object form.
  - **He** (SP) bought roses for his wife. She bought cologne for **him** (OP).

• **She, her**
  - Singular third person feminine pronouns. *She* is the subject form and *her* is the object form.
  - **She** (SP) wanted chocolates. He bought **her** (OP) chocolates.
Subject Pronouns (SP) and Object Pronouns (OP)

• **It**
  - Refers to lifeless things, animals, situations, ideas or abstract entities.
  - As a subject, *it* can be used as an empty pronoun to place in the subject position when there is no other subject, particularly when talking about weather or time.
  - *It* is also an object
    - *It* (SP) is right by the corner. You will see it (OP) as soon as you go in.
Subject Pronouns (SP) and Object Pronouns (OP)

• **We, us**
  - *We* and *us* refer to different groups of people, but always including the speaker. *We* is the subject form and *us* is the object form.
  - *We* (SP) just got here. Did they call *us* (OP)?

• **They, them**
  - *They* and *them* refer to specific groups of people, things and animals.
  - *They* is the subject form and *them* is the object form.
  - *They* (SP) are too expensive. I’m not buying *them* (OP).
Works Cited


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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