



Direct vs. Indirect Objects



Important notice:

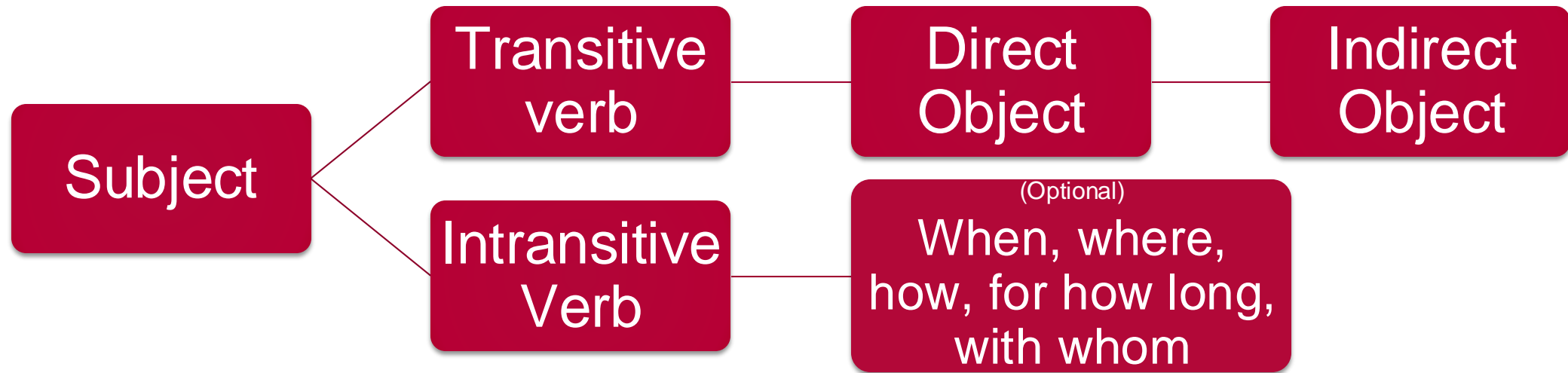
At the end of this presentation there is a link to a Microsoft Forms quiz. You must score an 80% or higher to pass the quiz.

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



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.

Grammatical Person	Singular	Plural
<i>1st person</i>	I	We
<i>2nd person</i>	You	You
<i>3rd person</i>	He, she, it	They

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.

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

- ✓ 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).

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