

The Object of a Sentence

Indirect and Direct Objects

Direct and Indirect Objects

- There are two kinds of complements which are affected by the action of the verb: the *direct object* and the *indirect object*.

Direct Object

- The *direct object* receives the action expressed by the verb or names the result of the action.
 - Dorothea Lange photographed **farmers** in the Midwest during the Depression. [*Farmers* is the direct object; it receives the action of the verb *photographed*]
 - Lange built an impressive **collection**. [*Collection* is the direct object; it names the result of the action *built*.]

Direct Object

- Direct objects follow action verbs only. They answer the question *What?* or *Whom?* After an action verb. Lange, in the first sentence, photographed whom? She photographed *farmers*; therefore, *farmers* is the direct object. In the second sentence, Lange built what? She built a *collection*; therefore, *collection* is the direct object.

Direct Object

- A **direct object** will never be in a prepositional phrase.

Direct Object

● Practice with Direct Object

- The Cheyennes gave great respect to the older members of their tribe.
- We watched a performance of Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*.
- The United States celebrates several holidays on Mondays
- Cyrano wore a hat with a large plume.
- Are you helping or hurting the environment?
- At the end of the press conference, the mayor thanked the reporters for their patience.

Indirect Object

- The *indirect object* of the verb precedes the direct object and tells to whom or what or for whom or what the action of the verb is done.
- An *indirect object* will never be in a prepositional phrase.

Indirect Object

- The speaker gave **us** her opinion. [Us is the indirect object because it tells *to whom* the speaker gave her opinion.]
- My parents bought our **boat** a new sail. [Boat is the indirect object because it tells *for what* my parents a new sail.]
- (Notice that the sentences above a direct object as well as an indirect object. This is usually the case. The indirect object normally precedes the direct object.)

Indirect Object

● Practice with Indirect Object

- Her parents wired her the money she needed.
- They directed me to the nearest drugstore.
- Celia sent the landlord a check for rent.
- The guide showed the tourists the best places to eat.
- Someone deliberately gave us poor advice.
- Unfortunately, we had lost two of our tickets.
- We sent our relatives some handmade Christmas cards.