Complements (Direct and Indirect Objects)

• Practice 1

Direct Objects   A *complement* is a word or group of words that completes the meaning of the predicate of a sentence. One of the most common complements, the direct object, is a noun, pronoun, or group of words acting as a noun that receives the action of a transitive verb.

**DIRECT OBJECTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sentence</th>
<th>Direct Object</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Steve wrote an amusing <strong>script</strong>.</td>
<td><strong>DO</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Which <strong>song</strong> did Annette <strong>record</strong>?</td>
<td><strong>DO</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We brought <strong>chocolates</strong> and <strong>strawberries</strong></td>
<td><strong>DO</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Indirect Objects   An indirect object is a noun or pronoun that appears with a direct object and names the person or thing that something is given to or done for.

**INDIRECT OBJECTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sentence</th>
<th>Indirect Object</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beth brought <strong>him</strong> <strong>his paper</strong>.</td>
<td><strong>IO DO</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We gave <strong>Charles</strong> and <strong>David</strong> <strong>their tickets</strong>.</td>
<td><strong>IO DO</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Indirect objects often appear with these transitive verbs: *ask, bring, buy, give, lend, make, promise, show, teach, tell, or write.*

**Exercise 1** Identifying Direct Objects.   Draw a box around each direct object in the sentences below. Some sentences may have a compound direct object.

**EXAMPLE:** The Senate passed an important **bill**.

1. Stew the vegetables in a little beef broth.
2. Jason needs a dictionary and a thesaurus.
3. Which exit do you take from the parkway?
4. I will ask him about the interview.
5. Every morning Father always buys a newspaper.
6. She drinks either tea or coffee.
7. The artist painted a subdued sunset.
8. Can you describe the hotel to us?
9. I will recommend him and her for the two positions.
10. Melody prepared an outstanding graphic for the fair.

**Exercise 2** Finding Indirect Objects.   Draw a box around each indirect object in the sentences below. Also underline each direct object.

**EXAMPLE:** I wrote the **governor** a letter.

1. My sister showed the class her award.
2. For his birthday we promised Dad new stereo speakers.
3. Will you give them the bad news?
4. I will teach Susan a new computer game.
5. Why don’t you lend Judy and him your old binoculars?
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• Practice 2

Exercise 1  Recognizing Direct Objects. Underline each direct object in the sentences below.

EXAMPLE: Sometimes, artists find inspiration for their work in a particular place.

(1) Georgia O'Keeffe spent her early years in the Midwest. (2) Later, she studied art in Chicago and New York. (3) From 1912 to 1914, she supervised art teachers in Amarillo, Texas. (4) From 1916 to 1918, she directed the art professors at a college in Canyon, Texas. (5) O'Keeffe later married Alfred Stieglitz, a famous American photographer. (6) Stieglitz displayed O'Keeffe's paintings in his art gallery. (7) The desert had inspired O'Keeffe. (8) She earned fame for her paintings of the Southwest. (9) Many feature rocks, animal bones, and flowers. (10) From 1949 O'Keeffe made her permanent home near Taos, New Mexico.

Exercise 2  Recognizing Indirect Objects. Write the underlined words in each sentence and identify each as a direct object, indirect object, or object of a preposition.

EXAMPLE: Frank gave his friends vegetables from his garden.

friends (indirect object) vegetables (direct object)

1. They bought the condominium for their daughter.

2. The university granted the incoming freshman a four-year scholarship.

3. The builder showed the prospective owners some special additions to the house.

4. Beverly Sills sang an aria at the charity ball.

5. Mrs. Phelps taught piano in her home.

6. Eric told his young campers a harrowing bedtime tale.

7. Aunt Harriet described our complete family tree to me.

8. When did they deliver the dining room set to you?

9. Our club made ice cream for the old-fashioned picnic.

10. I ordered a sweater from the catalog.

11. Sylvia gave her a handmade frame.

12. Marion was within earshot of the conspirators.

13. Enrollment in that class has exceeded our expectations.

14. Enrique proudly handed the teacher his essay.

15. Your eloquent words gave me a chill down my spine.