

Complements

4a. A **complement** is a word or a word group that completes the meaning of a verb.

EXAMPLES Fran told **him** the good **news**. [*Him* and *news* complete the meaning of the verb *told*.]
Paco was **happy** about the news. [*Happy* completes the meaning of the verb *was*.]

EXERCISE A Underline the complement(s) in each of the following sentences.

Example 1. Mia and I visited Mr. Merkenson's plant nursery.

- Mr. Merkenson is a horticulturist.
- He grows many different kinds of plants at the nursery.
- Mr. Merkenson showed us some lovely ferns.
- All of the ferns looked extremely healthy.
- Do ferns require any special care?
- Ferns are rather hardy plants.
- Mr. Merkenson handed me a booklet about ferns.
- I read the part about plant care.
- Mia and I bought our mother a beautiful Boston fern.
- Our mother seemed appreciative of the gift.

EXERCISE B In each of the following sentences, identify the underlined word by writing above it *COMP* for complement, *ADV* for *adverb*, or *OP* for *object of a preposition*.

Example 1. I met with my school counselor today.

- The eighth-graders are forming a recycling campaign at the school.
- Because of the rainy weather, we stayed indoors all day.
- Are all of these cards and letters for me?
- The guest speaker spoke to the class about fire prevention.
- The Nineteenth Amendment gave women the right to vote.
- My little brother grew restless toward the end of the movie.
- The president of the company addressed her audience eloquently.
- Do all bears hibernate during the winter months?
- Claudio had bought a new suit especially for the occasion.
- Aunt Epatha is a collector of rare books.

Direct Objects

4b. A **direct object** is a noun, pronoun, or word group that tells who or what receives the action of the verb.

EXAMPLES Ms. Damon arranged the **desks** into a circle.
She bought a **sofa** and a **chair**. [compound direct object]

EXERCISE In the following sentences, circle the verb and underline the direct object. Some sentences do not have a direct object.

Example 1. Tonight I will read the last chapter of this book.

1. Ms. McCourt manages her business carefully.
2. Our tabby cat, Mr. Alp, stalked the mouse through the garden.
3. Please bring me a salad from the sandwich shop on the corner.
4. At first, she put the dog and the cat in separate rooms.
5. Jada and Whitney attended their ten-year high school reunion last week.
6. He could have talked about African history for hours.
7. Has the detective reached a conclusion about the burglary yet?
8. The mathematician thought about the unusual proof for several days.
9. The final scene of that movie completely surprised me.
10. After the final performance of the play, Ms. Marrazzo congratulated the cast and crew.
11. At his concert last night, Taj Mahal played "Think," a blues song.
12. Did you rent any videos last week?
13. The author finally published the article.
14. Conchata practices piano three times a week.
15. I'll be waiting for your call.
16. Mr. Pinkett gave his old books, a computer, and a mattress to the Salvation Army.
17. Did you hear the president on the radio this morning?
18. For my birthday, my sister gave me the latest book in the series.
19. Mr. Miyasaki is an expert on bonsai trees.
20. In a seat at the back of the theater, the playwright watched her play.

Indirect Objects

4c. An **indirect object** is a noun, pronoun, or word group that sometimes appears in sentences containing direct objects.

An indirect object tells *to whom* or *to what* or *for whom* or *for what* the action of the verb is done.

EXAMPLES Aunt Aretha bought **herself** a terrarium. [Note: *Terrarium* is the direct object.]

Later she gave **Theo** and **me** the terrarium. [compound indirect object]

An indirect object is never part of a prepositional phrase.

EXAMPLE Later she gave the terrarium to **Theo** and **me**. [objects of the preposition *to*]

EXERCISE In each of the following sentences, underline the indirect object. If a sentence does not have an indirect object, write *None* after it.

Example 1. In 1993, the Swedish Academy gave Toni Morrison the Nobel Prize for Literature.

1. Iola sent her brother a gift certificate for his birthday.
2. Miriam, Judy, and Roberto taught themselves three-part harmony.
3. Tell me the answer.
4. Ms. Ankers found her glasses on the floor under her bed.
5. The tall man gave us directions to the film festival.
6. Gregory bought himself a burrito for lunch.
7. At the American Museum of Natural History, Mr. Hsing showed James the hall of dinosaurs.
8. Kendall offered Jason his congratulations for winning the bicycle race.
9. At the wedding reception Chang sang Meg and Gordon their favorite song.
10. What gave you the idea for your story?
11. Mr. Linson took us on a field trip to the art museum.
12. After pondering the problem for a long time, Dean revealed his solution to us.
13. Very carefully, Annie offered the stray cat a piece of tuna fish.
14. The coach gave Vic, Bob, and Dan their varsity sweaters.
15. Carter returned the broken CD player to the manufacturer.
16. Our neighborhood grocery store provided the food for our annual charity picnic.
17. When you come back to the table, please bring me the mustard.
18. Jed told the class a story about his trip to Vermont.
19. The company will give you whatever you need to finish the job.
20. The little girl's story won the hearts of the nation.

Direct Objects and Indirect Objects A

4b. A **direct object** is a noun, pronoun, or word group that tells who or what receives the action of the verb.

EXAMPLE The Bavarian king Ludwig II built **Neuschwanstein Castle**.

4c. An **indirect object** is a noun, pronoun, or word group that sometimes appears in sentences containing direct objects.

An indirect object tells *to whom* or *to what* or *for whom* or *for what* the action of the verb is done.

EXAMPLE Ludwig II built **himself** many other castles. [Note: *Castles* is a direct object.]

EXERCISE A In each of the following sentences, identify the underlined word by writing above it *DO* for direct object, *IO* for indirect object, or *OP* for object of a preposition.

Example 1. Robert Louis Stevenson wrote ^{*DO*} Kidnapped.

1. The novel offers readers a great adventure.
2. In the novel a poor boy finds himself a captive on a ship.
3. The captain of the ship forces the young prisoner to work for him.
4. He brings the captain food and other supplies.
5. Eventually, the boy and another passenger secretly make plans to escape.

EXERCISE B In the following sentences, draw one line under each direct object and two lines under each indirect object. Not every sentence contains an indirect object. (Hint: At least one sentence contains a compound direct object or a compound indirect object.)

Example 1. Carlos bought his brother a birthday gift.

6. Charlotte and I gave our Dalmatian puppy a bath.
7. Eartha told Kim and me a secret.
8. Pass me the ball!
9. After dinner last night, Dad told us a hilarious story.
10. The explorers found the valuable treasure in a cave.
11. At soccer practice, we ran ten laps around the field.
12. At the request of the teacher, each student made a list of his or her goals.
13. Did Karen accept your invitation to the fiesta?
14. Gail gave her story a one-word title.
15. At the beginning of the tour, the museum guide handed each of us a name tag and a brochure.

Direct Objects and Indirect Objects B

4b. A **direct object** is a noun, pronoun, or word group that tells who or what receives the action of the verb.

EXAMPLE Terence framed a **photograph** for his grandmother.

4c. An **indirect object** is a noun, pronoun, or word group that sometimes appears in sentences containing direct objects.

An indirect object tells *to whom* or *to what* or *for whom* or *for what* the action of the verb is done.

EXAMPLE Terence sent **her** the card for Grandparents Day. [Note: *Card* is a direct object.]

EXERCISE A In each of the following sentences, identify the underlined word by writing above it *DO* for direct object, *IO* for indirect object, or *OP* for object of a preposition.

Example 1. My uncle gave me a guitar for my birthday.

1. He also gave me a book of easy-to-play Beatles songs.
2. The book shows the reader the hand positions for each song.
3. So far, I have taught myself three songs.
4. I have learned "Yesterday," "Hey Jude," and "Yellow Submarine."
5. After he heard me play, my uncle praised me for my talent.

EXERCISE B In the following sentences, draw one line under each direct object and two lines under each indirect object. Not every sentence contains an indirect object.

Example 1. The coach offered us a chance to play.

6. Ms. Wong wrote the store a check for the groceries.
7. Sophie told Carmen the complete story.
8. Carl proposed a title for the film.
9. Offer our guest some soup, Cedric.
10. The newspaper article gave Cody an idea for a story.
11. Just in case, the purser issued every passenger a life vest.
12. Give yourselves a nice round of applause.
13. The avalanche carried away the empty cabin.
14. Mother gave Tim and me some money for lunch at school.
15. Helen gave a tour of the studio to Tonya and Peter.