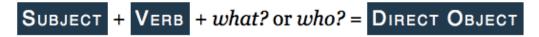
Direct Versus Indirect Objects Beloved Grammar

Indirect objects are rare. You can read for pages before you encounter one. For an indirect object to appear, a sentence must first have a <u>direct object</u>.

Direct objects follow <u>transitive verbs</u> [a type of <u>action verb</u>]. If you can identify the <u>subject</u> and <u>verb</u> in a sentence, then finding the direct object—*if one exists*—is easy. Just remember this simple formula:



Here are examples of the formula in action:

- > Jim built a *sandcastle* on the beach.
- Jim = subject; built = verb. Jim built what? Sandcastle = direct object.
- Sammy and Maria brought *Billie Lou* to the party.
- Sammy, Maria = subjects; brought = verb. Sammy and Maria brought who? Billie Lou = direct object.
- > To explain the broken lamp, we told a *lie*.
- > *We* = subject; *told* = verb. We told *what? Lie* = direct object.

When someone [or something] *gets* the direct object, that word is the *indirect* object. Look at these new versions of the sentences above:

- > Jim built his *granddaughter* a *sandcastle* on the beach.
- Jim = subject; built = verb. Jim built what? Sandcastle = direct object. Who got the sandcastle?
 Granddaughter = indirect object.
- > So that Darren would have company at the party, Sammy and Maria brought *him* a *blind date*.
- Sammy, Maria = subjects; brought = verb. Sammy and Maria brought who? Blind date = direct object.
 Who got the blind date? Him = indirect object.
- > To explain the broken lamp, we told *Mom* a *lie*.
- > We = subject; told = verb. We told what? Lie = direct object. Who got the lie? Mom = indirect object.