

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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# 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 **direct object**.

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

**SUBJECT** + **VERB** + *what? or who?* = **DIRECT OBJECT**

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.