

Grammar Help Sheet: Direct and Indirect Objects

Suppose that in a sentence, you use for the subject and predicate ***I sent.***

To get a direct object, ask yourself the question: What have I sent?

Your answer could be: ***a message.*** *Message* is then the direct object.

Now, write your sentence as far as you have constructed it, leaving a space for an indirect object (the indirect object always comes before the direct object in the sentence).

I sent _____ a message.

Next, to get an indirect object, ask yourself: To whom did I send the message?

The answer to that question will be the indirect object. Your answer could be: ***to my mother.***

Leave out the ***to*** (which is a preposition) and put ***my mother*** in the space you left for the indirect object, and your sentence is complete.

<i>I</i>	<i>sent</i>	<i>my mother</i>	<i>a message.</i>
Subject	Predicate	Indirect Object	Direct Object

Notice that the indirect object comes before the direct object in the sentence.

Try another sentence. Choose a subject and a predicate.

Mr. Smith will pay.

To get the direct object, ask yourself: What will Mr. Smith pay?

The answer may be: ***the money.***

Write the sentence as far as you have it, leaving space for the indirect object, which comes before the direct object.

Mr. Smith will pay _____ the money.