

Indirect object

A noun or pronoun that comes after the verb and before the direct object and usually answers the question to whom, to what, from whom, or for what about the verb.

A Pattern 3 sentence has a transitive verb, a direct object, and an **indirect object**. The indirect object tells who will receive the direct object. An indirect object is a noun or pronoun that names the person receiving the direct object.

The indirect object comes after the verb and before the direct object in a sentence.

An indirect object answers the question *to whom*, *to what*, *for whom*, or *for what* about the verb.

Pattern 3 Sentence:

Subject + Verb + Indirect Object + Direct Object

EXAMPLE

S V Ind. O. D.O.

Karyn wrote Mark a letter.

(Karyn wrote a letter *to whom*? She wrote to Mark.)

Activity A Write the indirect objects in each of these sentences on your paper. (HINT: To find the indirect object, ask the question *to whom*, *to what*, *for whom*, or *for what* about the verb.)

- 1) Joanna gave her mother a gift.
- 2) I wrote myself a reminder.
- 3) The school mailed students their final report cards.
- 4) I offered Chan some pizza.
- 5) Mrs. López brought me my homework.
- 6) Marlene showed me her baseball card collection.
- 7) The bank lent Mr. Nakai money.
- 8) The salesclerk handed Maya the change.
- 9) Joseph sold Jon his old bike.
- 10) The woman bought her twin daughters matching outfits.

An indirect object is never part of a prepositional phrase.

EXAMPLE

Indirect object: He wrote **me** a letter.

Object of a preposition: He wrote a letter to **me**.

Activity B Decide whether the word in bold is an indirect object or the object of a preposition. Write *indirect object* or *object of a preposition* on your paper.

- 1) Lou gave his **dog** a bone.
- 2) Helena poured some milk for her **cat**.
- 3) The store sent coupons to their best **customers**.
- 4) The server brought **us** lunch.
- 5) Mrs. Jenkins handed my paycheck to **me**.

Activity C Create four columns on your paper with the headings *Subject*, *Verb*, *Indirect Object*, and *Direct Object*. Then identify the simple subject, the verb, the indirect object, and the direct object in each sentence. Write these in the correct column.

Example Mary gave me a birthday present.

Subject	Verb	Indirect Object	Direct Object
Mary	gave	me	present

- 1) The director gave the band members their music.
- 2) Fred asked Mr. Smith a question.
- 3) The music company sent the school a bill.
- 4) The secretary handed his boss the mail.
- 5) Mrs. Arloff offered the students her help.
- 6) The teacher gave the class homework.
- 7) She taught her friend sign language.
- 8) Jenny wrote her aunt a letter.
- 9) The school awarded Tim a scholarship.
- 10) Mr. Jackson gave every employee a raise.

When the indirect object is a pronoun, the pronoun must be in the objective case. Refer to the chart on page 232.

EXAMPLE

S	V	Ind. O.	D.O.
His boss	offered	him	a promotion.

Activity D Write the pronoun on your paper that should appear in each sentence to make it correct. Remember that a pronoun used as an indirect object is always in the objective form.

- 1) Tom gave (I, me) the message.
- 2) Fred sent (he, him) a letter.
- 3) Martha told (she, her) the answer.
- 4) That teacher taught (we, us) Spanish.
- 5) We served (they, them) dinner.

Pattern 3 sentences may have adjectives and prepositional phrases that describe the indirect object.

EXAMPLES

S	V	Adj.	Adj	Ind.O.	D.O.
Steve	wrote	his	younger sister		a letter.

S	V	Adj.	Ind. O.	Prep. Phrase	D.O.
She	gave	her	friend from Montana		a gift.

Activity E Rewrite each of these sentences on your paper. Add an adjective or prepositional phrase to describe the indirect object in bold.

- 1) Pat sent her **friend** a message.
- 2) Marcus offered the **woman** his seat.
- 3) The teacher told the **boy** the answer.
- 4) We made our **neighbor** an offer.
- 5) We asked the **mechanic** a question about the car.

Pattern 3 sentences may be questions. Part of the verb phrase may come before the subject. The question may begin with an interrogative word.

EXAMPLES

V S V Ind.O. D.O.
Will you give Shawn a message?

S V Ind. O. D.O.
Who sent you that letter?

Pattern 3 sentences are often commands or requests.

EXAMPLES

S V Ind.O. D.O.
(You) Show the class your drawing.

S V Ind.O. D.O.
(You) Give me his new address.

Activity F Write the indirect objects in these sentences on your paper.

- 1) Tell me the answer.
- 2) Did you give the dog a biscuit?
- 3) Would you lend me your sweater for the evening?
- 4) Please teach me Spanish.
- 5) When did Anna write you that note?
- 6) Allow yourself enough time for breakfast.
- 7) Are you giving Michael a present?
- 8) Who asked me that question?
- 9) Bring them their coats.
- 10) Tell us the truth.

The indirect object of a Pattern 3 sentence can be compound.

EXAMPLES

Fix your **father** and his **friend** some lunch.

Will you give **Tim** and **Simon** a message?

Maria read her younger **brother** and **sister** a bedtime story.

Activity G Complete each of these sentences with a compound indirect object. Write the completed sentences on your paper.

- 1) Write _____ a letter.
- 2) Give _____ more time.
- 3) Please tell _____ the answer.
- 4) Uncle Fred made _____ model airplanes.
- 5) Would you lend _____ five dollars?
- 6) I offered _____ more pizza.
- 7) Joe asked _____ for help with his project.
- 8) Kim sent _____ birthday gifts.

Activity H Rearrange each group of words to make a Pattern 3 sentence. Write the sentences on your paper.

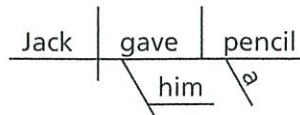
- 1) them served we dinner the
- 2) gave rose Erica Julio a
- 3) told team the coach play the the
- 4) myself snack fixed I a
- 5) a him he handed dollar

Diagramming Pattern 3 Sentences

To diagram a Pattern 3 sentence:

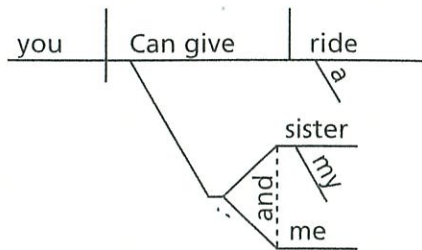
1. Draw a slanted line and a horizontal line under the verb.
2. Leave the slanted line blank.
3. Write the indirect object on the horizontal line.

EXAMPLE Jack gave him a pencil.



4. Diagram a compound indirect object this way.

EXAMPLE Can you give my sister and me a ride?



Activity I Diagram these Pattern 3 sentences on your paper. Look at the examples above and on pages 237–238.

- 1) Pass me the bread.
- 2) Jack lent Larry his car.
- 3) Jane made Yolanda an offer for her bike.
- 4) Lana sent her aunt and her uncles thank-you notes.
- 5) Will you bring Tina and me an apple?

Lesson 3 Review

Part A Write the indirect objects in these sentences on your paper.

- 1) Sue brought Rita and Pam some books.
- 2) After dinner, Grandpa told the family some old stories.
- 3) Tim asked his grandfather a question.
- 4) Will you tell me the story about Dad again?
- 5) Allow yourself several hours for that report.
- 6) The members of the team gave Kerry an award for her outstanding effort.
- 7) Give me another chance at the game, please.
- 8) Chris handed Tómas and Leon their books.
- 9) Who sold you that bike?
- 10) Will you make Sam and me some lunch?

Part B Diagram these Pattern 3 sentences on your paper.

- 1) My uncle offered me a job in his store.
- 2) She wrote him a long letter.
- 3) Dan gave Meg and Lian a ride to work.
- 4) Who gave you that book?
- 5) Sing me your song, and then I will give you my opinion.
- 6) Corey brought her mom and dad breakfast in bed.
- 7) I sent each guest an invitation and directions to my house.