

THE INDIRECT OBJECT

The indirect object of the verb answers the question "To Whom?" and "To What?" or "For What?" something is done or given. A verb has an indirect object only if it also has a direct object.

- i.o. d.o.
ex. Tell me a story. (Tell a story to whom?)
i.o. i.o. d.o.
Joe did her and me a favor. (Did a favor for whom?)

If words *to* and *for* appear in the sentence, they become part of a prepositional phrase.

- i.o. d.o.
ex. Helen told Sue a joke
Helen told a joke to Sue ("To Sue" is a prepositional phrase, not an indirect object)

Identifying Indirect Objects. Underline the indirect object in each of the following sentences. Label direct objects with the initials d.o. (Note: all sentences are the same -"to whom?")

d.o.
Example: Bill lent Howard his jacket.

1. Lisa told the children a story about an elephant.
2. Give me one good reason for doing that job!
3. Pat gave Dick a record for his birthday.
4. We mailed Barbara a Christmas package.
5. Please tell me your new address.
6. The principal gave Tim a lecture.
7. I'll tell you the truth.
8. Mrs. Barnes gave Chris a reward for finding her briefcase.
9. Please show me the best way to upholster a chair.
10. Norman handed the bellboy a tip.
11. The University Club awarded Joy a scholarship to study marine biology.
12. I wish you great success.
13. Mr. Brent showed Sam his garden.
14. Mrs. Todd promised me a reward for finding her dog.
15. Dr. Jordan gave his church a large contribution.
16. I'll read the twins a story before their bedtime.
17. Grandfather told me a story about his boyhood.
18. I shall give the Salvation Army my used clothing.
19. The company president gave Mom a watch at her retirement party.
20. Mr. Osborn showed his class some photographs taken on his trip.

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