Direct / Indirect Object

In a sentence, the subject and verb may be followed by an object. An **object** is a noun or pronoun that gives meaning to the subject and verb of the sentence. Not all sentences contain objects, but some may contain one or more. There are two kinds of objects within a sentence: **direct** and **indirect objects**.

I.   A **direct object** is a noun or pronoun that receives the action of a verb.

Daniel fixes <u>computers</u>.
                                          direct object

Try this technique when determining the location of the **direct object** in the above sentence:

1) First locate the subject and verb in the sentence. The subject in the above sentence is "Daniel" and the verb is "fixes."
2) Now ask yourself the questions *What?* or *Whom?* about the verb "fixes."
3) *What does the subject, **Daniel**, fix?* Daniel fixes <u>computers</u>.

II.   Sometimes a direct object is followed by an indirect object. An **indirect object** is the noun or pronoun for which the action is done.

Daniel fixes computers <u>for his family</u>.
                                          indirect object

1) First locate the subject (*Daniel*) and the verb (*fixes*).
2) Now ask yourself the questions *To Whom? To What? For Whom?* or *For What?* about the subject and verb.
3) *For whom does the subject, **Daniel**, fix computers?* Daniel fixes computers <u>for his family</u>.

**An indirect object may also come *before* the direct object.

Susan gave <u>me</u> her notes. (*To whom did Susan give her notes?* <u>me</u>)
                indirect object

In the following exercise, underline the direct objects once and underline the indirect objects twice. **Not all sentences will contain direct and indirect objects.

1) We ate steak for dinner.

2) Snow and ice covered the streets.

3) She gives violin lessons to Jacob.

4) Everyone loves candy.

5) The teacher gave us an assignment.

6) The children are playing.

7) I brought a balloon to Diane.

8) Can you send me a letter?

9) The baby needs a nap.

10) The students asked the teacher many questions.

Answers

1) *Direct object*: steak

2) *Direct object*: the streets

3) *Direct object*: violin lessons   *Indirect object*: Jacob

4) *Direct object*: candy

5) *Direct object*: an assignment   *Indirect object*: us

6) *No direct or indirect object*

7) *Direct object*: a balloon   *Indirect object*: Diane

8) *Direct object*: a letter   *Indirect object*: me

9) *Direct object*: a nap

10) *Direct object*: many questions   *Indirect object*: the teacher