

Direct / Indirect Objects

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 computers.

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 computers.

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 for his family.

- 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 for his family.

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

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