

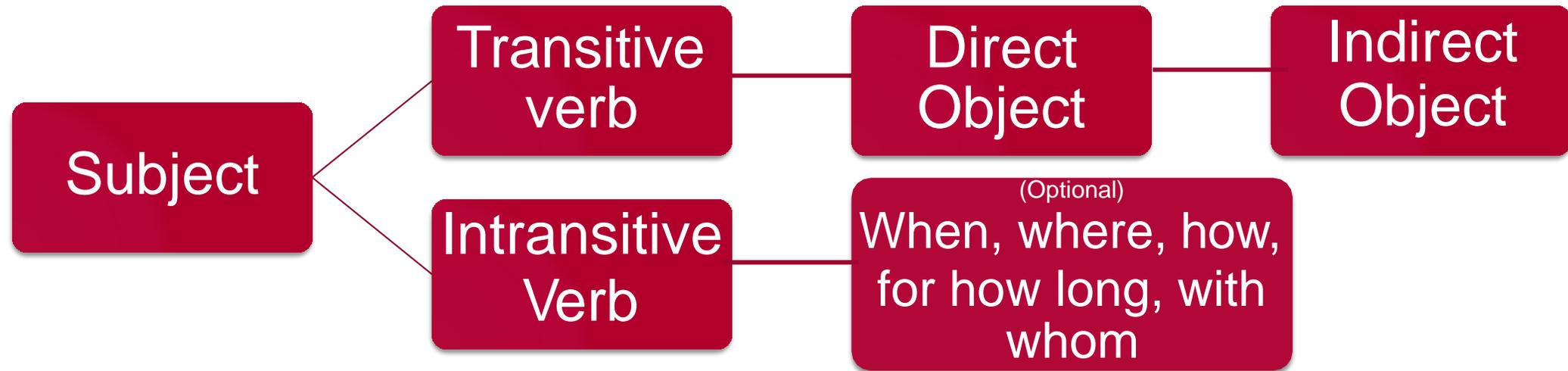


# Direct and Indirect Objects

# Objectives

- Learn what direct and indirect objects are
- Differentiate between direct objects and indirect objects
- Use direct and indirect objects correctly

# Sentence structure



# A subject

- Is a noun, noun phrase or pronoun that refers to a person, place, animal or thing.
- It is usually the agent of the sentence.
- The agent is the one doing the verb, the one that *performs the action*.
- For example: **My mother** ran to the store to get some last-minute groceries.

# A transitive verb

- Is a verb that requires an object. A transitive verb has a direct object
- **Transitive verbs**, however, need more information to complete their meaning.
  - ✓ For example: “I found...?”
  - ✓ The verbs “to find” , “ to play”, “ to buy”, “ to give” are transitive verbs because, when using them , it requires you to say what was found; played, bought, given otherwise, the idea is incomplete.

# An intransitive verb

- Is a verb that deliver a complete meaning on their own.
- An intransitive verb does not have a direct object
- There are verbs like “to walk”, “to sleep”, “to dance”, “to go”, “to laugh”
  - ✓ “I danced.”

# What is an object?

- An **object** is a noun, a noun phrase or a pronoun that refers to a person, place or thing.
- It is the recipient of the action of a transitive verb.
- Transitive verbs allow for two types of objects: direct objects and indirect objects.

# A direct object (DO)

- Is a noun or noun phrase that identifies who or what *receives the action* of a transitive verb.
- Answers the question “**Whom?** (formal)/**Who?** (informal)”
  - ✓ I saw **Martha** (DO).
  - ✓ Whom did you see? **Martha** (DO)
  - ✓ **Martha** is the **direct object** of the verb “to see”.
- Can also be the *product of the action* in a question that starts with “**What?**”.
  - ✓ He wrote **a letter** (DO).
  - ✓ What did he write? **A letter** (DO)
  - ✓ **A letter** is the **direct object** of the verb “to write”.

# Indirect Object (IO)

- Is a noun or a noun phrase that refers to the person or thing that *receives the result* of a transitive verb.
- If the direct object is the product of the action, the indirect object is the *recipient of that product*.
- Answers the questions “To whom? For whom?” and “To what? For what?”
  - ✓ He wrote **Martha** (IO) a letter.
  - ✓ To whom did he write a letter? (Formal)
  - ✓ Who did he write a letter to? (Informal)
  - ✓ **Martha** is the **indirect object** of the verb “to write”.

# Position

- Both objects come **after the verb**.
- The indirect object always needs a direct object with it. The indirect object usually comes **before** the direct object.
  - ✓ She gave **her mom** a birthday card.
- The indirect object can also be used with a preposition (“to” or “for”), in which case the indirect object must come **after** the direct object.
  - ✓ (Incorrect) I wrote **to my sister** a letter.
  - ✓ (Correct) I wrote a letter **to my sister**.
  - ✓ (Correct) I wrote **my sister** a letter.

# Position

- **Do not** place a word in between a verb and its direct object, unless it is an indirect object.
  - ✓ (Incorrect) I **wrote** yesterday **a letter** to my sister.
  - ✓ (Correct) I **wrote a letter** to my sister yesterday.
  - ✓ (Correct) Yesterday, I **wrote** my sister **a letter**.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qywaw9o-zTU>

# Practice

In the following exercise, underline the direct objects once and underline the indirect object 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 Jacob violin lessons.
- 4) Everyone loves candy.
- 5) The teacher gave us an assignment.
- 6) The children are playing.
- 7) I brought Diane a balloon.
- 8) Can you send me a letter?
- 9) The baby needs a nap.
- 10) The students asked the teacher many questions.

