**Verbs with two objects**

Many English verbs take two objects  – one direct object and one indirect object. The direct object usually refers to an object. The indirect object usually refers to a person and comes first.

He gave his daughter a camera for Christmas. (Indirect object – his daughter, direct object – camera)

Could you lend me some money? (Indirect object – me, direct object – money)

Let me get you a cup of coffee. (Indirect object – you, direct object – a cup of coffee)

Some common verbs which can be followed by two objects are given below:

*Bring, buy, cost, get, give, leave, lend, make, offer, owe, pass, pay, play, promise, read, refuse, send, show, sing, take, teach, tell, wish, write*

Position of the direct and indirect objects

The indirect object usually comes before the direct object. We can also put the indirect object after the direct object. When the indirect object comes after the direct object, it usually has the preposition to or for before it.

She sent the flowers for me, not for you.

I handed my credit card to the salesman.

When both objects are pronouns

When both objects are pronouns, it is common to put the indirect object last. In informal style, to is occasionally dropped after it.

Lend them to her.

Send some to him.

It is also possible to put the indirect object first.

Send him some.

The verbs explain, suggest and describe

The verbs explain, suggest and describe are not used with the structure indirect object + direct object.

Please explain your decision to us.

Can you suggest a good cardiologist to me? (NOT Can you suggest me a good cardiologist?)

One object or two

Some verbs can be followed by either a direct object, or an indirect object, or both.

I asked him.

I asked a question.

I asked him a question.

Verbs with two objects

Many verbs can be followed by two objects – one indirect and one direct object. The indirect object usually refers to a person, and comes first.

I gave him a watch for his birthday.

Could you send me the report?

I will lend you some money.

Let me get you some coffee.

She told me a story.

Certain verbs cannot be followed by the structure indirect object + direct object. Examples are: explain, suggest or describe.

I would like you to explain this theory to me. (NOT I would like you to explain me this theory.)

Can you suggest a good cardiologist to me? (NOT Can you suggest me a good cardiologist?)

Please describe your job to me. (NOT Please describe me your job.)

Some verbs can be followed by either a direct object or an indirect object, or both.

I asked Peter. (Here the verb asked is followed by an indirect object.)

I asked a question. (Here the verb asked is followed by a direct object.)

I asked Peter a question. (Here the verb asked is followed by both a direct object and an indirect object.)

Other verbs that can be used like this are: teach, tell, pay, show, sing, play and write.

He taught me a lesson.

When the verbs sing, play and write have no direct object, we put the preposition to before the indirect object.

Compare:

Write me a letter. (NOT Write to me a letter.) (To is not used when write is followed by a direct object.)

Write to me. (NOT Write me.) (Here we use the preposition to because the verb write is not followed by a direct object.)

1. Some verbs have **two objects** –an indirect object and a direct object:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Subject** | **Verb** | **Indirect object**  | **Direct object** |
| My wife | sent | me | an email |
| He | brought | his mother | some flowers |
| He | cooked | all his friends | a delicious meal |

These clauses have the structure: V + N (indirect object) + N (direct object)

2. We can use a **prepositional phrase** with ***to*** or ***for*** with an indirect object:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Subject | Verb | **Direct object**  | **Prepositional phrase** |
| My wife | sent | an email | to me |
| He | brought | some flowers | for his mother |
| He | cooked | a delicious meal | for all his friends. |

These clauses have the structure : V + N (direct object) + Prepositional phrase (indirect object)

3. **Common v**erbs with ***for*** and an **indirect object** are:

book

buy

get

cook

keep

bring

make

pour

save

find

They booked a table **for me** at the restaurant.
We made toys **for all the children**.

4. **Common** verbs with ***to*** and an **indirect object** are:

give

lend

offer

pass

post

read

sell

send

show

promise

tell

He gave his programme **to the man** sitting next to him.
They sent Christmas cards **to all their customers**.

5. If the **indirect o**bject is a **long phrase** we normally use ***to*** or ***for***:

He showed his ticket **to the policeman standing by the door**.
We kept something to eat and drink **for all the people who arrived late**.

6. If the **indirect object** is a **pronoun** we normally use the N + V + N + N pattern:

I poured **him** another drink.
Their mother read **them** another story.

**Exercises**

<https://www.e-grammar.org/direct-indirect-object/test2-exercise2/>

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**Passive causative**

<https://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/exercises/active_passive/objects_tenses.htm>

<https://www.perfect-english-grammar.com/passive-verbs-two-objects-exercise-1.html>