

4 SIMPLE SENTENCE S+V_t+O

After studying through this chapter, you are expected to be able to write simple sentences with Pattern S+V_t+O

Some verbs require an object to make a predicate. These are transitive verbs. Without an object, such verbs will not make a complete predicate. Study the following sentences.

No	Subject	Verb	Object
1	Mary	likes	ice cream.
2	Molly	borrowed	the books
3	John	carries	a heavy bag.
4	Jack	enjoyed	the movie.

Each of the verbs in the sentences above is followed by an object: in Sentence 1 “likes” is followed by “ice cream,” in Sentence 2 “borrowed” is followed by “the books,” in Sentence 3 “carries” is followed by “a heavy bag,” and in Sentence 4 “enjoyed” is followed by “the movie.” The noun or noun phrase that follows a transitive verb in a predicate is called the object of the verb. The object is a necessary part of the predicate. Without an object, the verb fails to make a predicate, and the sentence so formed is not grammatical. If we delete the objects from the sentences above, we will have the following ungrammatical sentences.

No	Ungrammatical Sentences
5	Mary likes. *
6	Molly borrowed. *
7	John carries. *
8	Jack enjoyed. *

Activity 4.1

Supply an object to make each of the following sentences complete.

1. My mother repaired _____ yesterday.
2. My sister hates _____ very much.
3. My uncle built _____ last year.
4. Mary visited _____ last night.
5. We are having _____ now.
6. Molly was washing _____ when we arrived.
7. That boy is making _____.
8. We do not want _____.
9. Frank has been collecting _____ for years.

Activity 4.2

Construct sentences with Pattern S+V_t+O.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____
- 9 _____

To-Infinitive as Object of Verb

Some transitive verbs can take an infinitive with to (or to-infinitive) as object. Although a to-infinitive can function as an object of a verb, this

does not mean that all transitive verbs can take a to-infinitive as object. Study the following sentences critically.

No	Subject	Verb	Object
9	Molly	wants	an apple.
10	Molly	wants	to sing.
11	Molly	wants	to sing a song.
12	Molly	wants	to sing a song in the party tonight.
13	Mary	likes	ice cream.
14	Mary	likes	to read.
15	Mary	likes	to read novels.
16	Mary	likes	to read novels during holidays.
17	John	expects	a miracle.
18	John	expects	to see you.
19	John	expects	to see you at school tomorrow.
20	Jack	refused	our help.
21	Jack	refused	to give up.
22	Jack	refused	to receive anyone's help in anyway.

In Sentence 9, the object of the verb “wants” is “an apple.” It is a noun phrase. In Sentence 10, the object of the verb “wants” is no more a noun phrase. The object of the verb in this sentence is a to-infinitive “to sing.” The object of the verb “wants” in Sentence 11 is an infinitive phrase “to sing a song.” Similarly, the object of the verb “wants” in Sentence 12 is also an infinitive phrase “to sing a song in the party tonight.” The same explanation applies to the other three sets of sentences—Sentences 13 through 16, Sentences 17 through 19, and Sentences 20 through 22. What we can learn from all these is that a to-infinitive as well as a to-infinitive phrase can function as an object of a transitive verb.

It has been said previously that not all transitive verbs can take a to-infinitive as object. If we use a to-infinitive as object of a verb that is not usually followed by a to-infinitive as object, the resulting sentence will be ungrammatical. Following is a list of verbs that can usually take a to-infinitive as object. However, it should be kept in mind that this list is not exhaustive, meaning that surely there are other verbs not included in this list that can be followed by a to-infinitive as object.

Verb	Example
agree	John agreed to donate some fund.
ask	The woman asks to see the manager.
attempt	The men attempted to break the safe.
choose	The girls chose to leave early in the morning.
dare	My sister dared to stay at home alone.
decide	We decided not to study tonight.
expect	Everyone of us expects to be happy.

Verb	Example
forget	Do not forget to post the letter, will you?
hate	We hate to trouble you again.
hesitate	Jack did not hesitate to tell me the truth.
hope	We hope to finish the work on time.
intend	They did not intend to live in that town.
learn	We have learned not to disappoint our boss.
like	Do you like to read?
long	I long to see your face again.
love	The boys love to play basketball after school.
manage	The postman managed to deliver all letters that day.
mean	I did not mean to hurt you.
need	We need to have more information.
offer	The man offered to take us to the island.
plan	We have been planning to visit the sick old man.
pretend	The man pretended not to know me.
promise	Molly promised not to come late.
refuse	Please, do not refuse to help her.
remember	Did you remember to lock the door?
tend	People tend to blame each other.
try	The woman tried not to cry.
vow	She has vowed never to come there again.
want	We only want to clarify our point of views.
wish	Mary does not wish to see the boy again.
...	

Activity 4.3

Combine the following sets of sentences into one sentence containing a to-infinitive as object. The first one is done for you.

1. a. John agreed.
b. John donated some money.
⇒ John agreed to donate some money.
2. a. We decided.
b. We did not study in the evening.
⇒ _____
3. a. My sister hopes. *
b. My sister finishes the job in time.
⇒ _____
4. a. The teacher would like. *
b. The teacher helps all students.
⇒ _____

5. a. The man did not plan. *
 b. The man met the woman at the market.
 ⇒ _____
6. a. We needed. *
 b. We obtained more information.
 ⇒ _____
7. a. Molly pretended.
 b. Molly saw the movie before.
 ⇒ _____
8. a. The man tried.
 b. The man opened the safe.
 ⇒ _____
9. a. Mary wishes. *
 b. Mary sees the boy again.
 ⇒ _____

Activity 4.4

Supply a to-infinitive or a to-infinitive phrase as object.

1. My mother wants to_____.
2. I think my brother needs to_____.
3. All of us expect to_____.
4. My sister decided to_____.
5. My father promised to_____.
6. We plan to_____.
7. My girlfriend intends to_____.
8. I choose to_____.
9. My boyfriend refuses to_____.

Activity 4.5

Construct sentences with Pattern S+V_t+O using to-infinitive as object.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____
- 9 _____

Gerund as Object of Verb

Some transitive verbs, as we have seen, might take a to-infinitive as object. Some other verbs might take a gerund as object. Study the following sentences critically.

No	Subject	Verb	Object
23	Jack	enjoys	sports.
24	Jack	enjoys	swimming.
25	Jack	enjoys	swimming in the sea.
26	Jack	enjoys	swimming in the sea with his friends.
27	Molly	loves	ice cream.
28	Molly	loves	cooking.
29	Molly	loves	cooking Chinese food.
30	Molly	loves	cooking Chinese food in her spare time.
31	John	admitted	his mistake.
32	John	admitted	not finishing his job.
33	John	admitted	not finishing his job on schedule.
34	Mary	remembered	the event.
35	Mary	remembered	meeting the young man.
36	Mary	remembered	meeting the young man last year.

In Sentence 23 the object of the verb “enjoys” is “sports,” a noun. In Sentence 24 the object of the verb “enjoys” is no longer a noun, but a gerund “swimming.” In Sentence 25 and Sentence 26 the objects of the

verb “enjoys” are gerund phrases “swimming in the sea” and “swimming in the sea with his friends.” Similarly, we can see that the objects of the verbs in Sentences 27, 31, and 34 are noun or noun phrase—“ice cream,” “his mistake,” and “the event.” But in Sentences 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 35, and 36 the objects of the verbs are no longer nouns or noun phrases, but gerund phrases. Therefore, it should be clear now that a gerund or a gerund phrase can fulfill the function of object of a certain type of transitive verbs.

However, as is the case with to-infinitive, not all verbs can take a gerund or a gerund phrase as object. Below is a list of verbs that could generally be followed by a gerund or a gerund phrase. It should be kept in mind that this list is not exhaustive, meaning that there are still other verbs not included in the list which can be followed by a gerund as object.

Verb	Example
admit	Jack admitted leaving the door unlocked.
advise	The doctor advised walking every morning.
avoid	We do not avoid meeting you.
begin	The students began painting the room at 8 this morning.
consider	The family considered moving to another town.
delay	Do not delay doing anything that you can do today.
deny	Did she deny visiting the man in the prison?
dislike	Molly dislikes cleaning the kitchen.
enjoy	Mary enjoys talking to the new teacher.
finish	We finished painting the houses last week.
forbid	The government will forbid smoking in public.
forget	I forget typing the letter.
hate	John hates listening to rock music.
imagine	We can not imagine his walking home alone.
like	My sister likes playing with small children.
love	The children love doing things with her.
mind	Do you mind my smoking here in this room?
postpone	The manager can not postpone raising our salary.
practice	We should practice speaking English everyday.
prefer	Actually, Mary prefers staying at home tonight.
prohibit	The government prohibits smoking in public places.
quit	You should quit making that noise.
recommend	The general recommends bombing the city.
regret	He regretted recommending the action.
remember	I remember entering this room last year.
resent	People in general resent waiting.
start	What time did you start studying your lessons last night?
stop	What time did you stop studying your lessons last night?
suggest	The doctor suggests traveling to a tropical country.
...	

Activity 4.6

Combine the following sets of sentences into one sentence containing a gerund as object. The first one is done for you.

1. a. The man began. *
- b. The man painted the room.
- ⇒ The man began painting the room.

2. a. The boy denied. *
- b. The boy visited his father in the prison.
- ⇒ _____

3. a. Molly enjoys. *
- b. Molly reads novels of any kind.
- ⇒ _____

4. a. My father hates. *
- b. My father talks to the new neighbor.
- ⇒ _____

5. a. I imagine. *
- b. I have a lot of money.
- ⇒ _____

6. a. My aunt loves. *
- b. My aunt talks to small children.
- ⇒ _____

7. a. We should practice.
- b. We write good English sentences.
- ⇒ _____

8. a. I preferred. *
- b. I stayed at home that night.
- ⇒ _____

9. a. You will not regret.
- b. You have a lot of friends.
- ⇒ _____

Activity 4.7

Supply a gerund or a gerund phrase as object.

1. My brother admitted _____.
2. I deny _____.
3. My boyfriend enjoys _____.
4. We finished _____.
5. The teacher forbids _____.
6. My sister prefers _____.
7. My mother regretted _____.
8. My girlfriend avoids _____.
9. My friends suggest _____.

Activity 4.8

Construct sentences with Pattern S+V_t+O using gerund as object.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____
- 9 _____

That-Clause as Object

We have learned that some transitive verbs can take a to-infinitive and a gerund as object, in addition to a noun and a noun phrase. Now we

are going to see that a *that*-clause (a subordinate clause that begins with the conjunction *that*) can also function as object of a transitive verb. Analyze the following sentences critically.

No	Subject	Verb	Object
37	Jack	believes	my story.
38	Jack	believes	that I wrote the letter.
39	Mary	said	something.
40	Mary	said	that we could not enter the building.
41	Molly	suggests	taking a rest.
42	Molly	suggests	that we take a rest before climbing.
43	John	remembered	something.
44	John	remembered	that the man took something.

While in Sentence 37 the object of the verb “believes” is “my story,” a noun phrase; the object of the verb “believes” in Sentence 38 is “that I wrote the letter,” a *that*-clause. While in Sentence 39 the object of the verb “said” is “something,” a noun; the object of the verb “said” in Sentence 40 is “that we could not enter the building,” a *that*-clause. While in Sentence 41 the object of the verb “suggests” is “taking a rest,” a gerund phrase; the object of the verb “suggests” in Sentence 42 is “that we take a rest before climbing,” a *that*-clause. While in Sentence 43 the object of the verb “remembered” is “something,” a noun; the object of the verb “remembered” in Sentence 44 is “that the man took something,” a *that*-clause. All these demonstrate that a *that*-clause can function as an object of certain transitive verbs.

Nevertheless, not all verbs can take a *that*-clause as object. Below is a list of verbs that can generally be followed by a *that*-clause as object. Needless to say, the list is not exhaustive, meaning that there are still other verbs not included in the list which can be followed by a *that*-clause as object.

Verb	Example
admit	I admit that I have made a mistake.
argue	They argue that the building will be useless.
assume	My mother assumes that we can carry out our plan.
believe	Jack believes that every person has his own destiny.
confess	My sister confesses that she is sometimes forgetful.
decide	My girlfriend decided that she would buy the dress.
demonstrate	We have demonstrated that we grasp the situation.
deny	John denies that he helped the boy in anyway.
doubt	My father doubts that it will rain tonight.
expect	The students expect that they will get a good mark.
explain	The teacher explains that a score is only a product.
fear	Molly fears that Jack might forget to come.

Verb	Example
feel	We feel that the man did not tell the truth.
hear	We also hear that he intends to leave the country.
hope	My brother hopes that he will get a good job.
imagine	I can't imagine that Mary comes to that party.
know	Mary knows that the party will be held tonight.
promise	Jack has promised that he will not come to the party.
propose	I propose that we go to the movies tonight.
prove	Jack will prove that he is not irresponsible.
realize	You will realize that football is a popular game.
recommend	The teacher recommends that we use the next room.
regret	My brother regrets that he forgot to post the letter.
report	Mary reported that she had finished her job.
say	Did you say that your name was not in the list?
show	This incident shows that a newspaper is a fighting tool.
state	The politician states that our economy is improving.
suggest	Jack suggested that we should pay him a visit.
suppose	I suppose that you are right.
think	We do not think that Molly will come on time.
understand	We understand that our safety is our own responsibility.
urge	John urged that we should abandon our plan.
vow	The man vowed that he would revenge.
wish	I do wish that you would stop making that noise.
...	

Activity 4.9

Combine the following sets of sentences into one sentence containing a *that*-clause as object. The first one is done for you.

- I admit. *
 - I have made a mistake.

⇒ I admit that I have made a mistake.
- Mary argued. *
 - We needed more supplies.

⇒ _____
- We believe. *
 - Jack is a responsible young man.

⇒ _____
- The teacher felt. *
 - The result should have been anticipated.

⇒ _____

5. a. We hear.
b. John is leaving for Papua.
⇒ _____
6. a. Molly knows.
b. The meeting will be postponed again.
⇒ _____
7. a. My mother has promised.
b. My mother will come to my wedding party.
⇒ _____
8. a. The doctor suggests. *
b. You should take some rest.
⇒ _____
9. a. Mary wishes. *
b. John will not forget to come.
⇒ _____

Activity 4.10

Complete each of the following sentences by supplying a that-clause as object.

1. My father admits that _____.
2. My sister believes that _____.
3. I expect that _____.
4. My girlfriend explains that _____.
5. Jack knew that _____.
6. My boyfriend promised that _____.
7. My mother realized that _____.
8. Molly will not regret that _____.
9. My brother thinks that _____.

Activity 4.11

Construct sentences with Pattern S+V_t+O using that-clause as object.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____

- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____
- 9 _____

Wh-Clause as Object

So far in this chapter, we have discussed how a transitive verb can take a noun, a pronoun, a to-infinitive, a to-infinitive phrase, a gerund, a gerund phrase, and a that-clause as object. Now we are going to learn that a wh-clause also can fulfill the function of object of certain transitive verbs. Examine the following sentences critically.

No	Subject	Verb	Object
45	Mary	forgets	something.
46	Mary	forgets	who borrowed her dictionary.
47	Jack	knew	this fact.
48	Jack	knew	what the man actually had in his pocket.
49	Molly	imagines	something.
50	Molly	imagines	where she will spend her holiday.
51	John	understood	the reason.
52	John	understood	why we painted the houses last month.

In 45 the object of the verb “forgets” is a noun, “something” while in 46 the object of the verb “forgets” is a wh-clause “who borrowed her dictionary.” In 47 the object of the verb “knew” is a noun phrase, “this fact” while in 48 the object of the verb “knew” is a wh-clause “what the man actually had in his pocket.” In 49 the object of the verb “imagines” is a noun, “something” while in 50 the object of the verb “imagines” is a wh-clause “where she will spend her holiday.” Similarly, in 51 the object of the verb “understood” is a

noun phrase, “the reason” while in 52 the object of the verb “understood” is a wh-clause “why we painted the houses last month.” All these are meant to show how a wh-clause can function as an object of a transitive verb.

Although a wh-clause can function as object of a transitive verb, not all transitive verbs normally can take a wh-clause as object. Below is a list of verbs that might be followed by a wh-clause as object. The list is not exhaustive, though. There are other transitive verbs not included in the list which could usually take a wh-clause as object.

Verb	Example
ask	Molly asked where the people were going.
decide	The teacher decided who would be present at the meeting.
demonstrate	Mary demonstrated how the thief broke into the house.
determine	My father does not determine when I have to study.
discover	My mother has discovered whom my sister went with.
discuss	We were discussing why people are forgetful.
doubt	My girlfriend doubted what I told her.
forget	I could not forget how the woman jumped over the fence.
imagine	Jack tried to imagine what he would eat that night.
know	My boyfriend knows how much I love him.
learn	We should learn what we should learn.
remember	My brother does not remember what time he got up.
reveal	This research reveals how students actually learn.
show	Molly showed what the boys had done.
suggest	The woman suggested where we should go this holiday.
understand	I don't understand why you did such things.
wonder	We have been wondering who will win the prize.
...	

A that-clause we learned in the previous section is quite easy to construct: we simply add the conjunction “that” to a statement. A wh-clause is formed from a wh-question. To understand this, study these sentences carefully.

No	WH-Question	WH-Clause
53	What will you do?	what you will do
54	Where has she gone?	where she has gone
55	Whom are they looking at?	whom they are looking at
56	When can they come?	when they can come
57	What is your name?	what your name is
58	Where did he go?	where he went
59	What does she wash everyday?	what she washes everyday
60	Whom do they visit?	whom they visit
61	How much does this bag cost?	how much this bag costs
62	What time did he arrive?	what time he arrived

To form a *wh*-clause from a *wh*-question, first of all, we retain the *wh*-word at the beginning of the clause. Then, we change the inverted word order of the question to a standard order of a statement. Thus, in Sentence 53 we change “will you do” to “you will do,” in Sentence 54 “has she gone” to “she has gone,” in Sentence 55 “are they looking at” to “they are looking at,” in Sentence 56 “can they come” to “they can come,” and in Sentence 57 “is your name” to “your name is.” However, we should remember that the change is not a mere change in word order. The change is actually a change from a question to a statement. Thus, some auxiliary verbs might get ellipsized. Therefore, in Sentence 58 we change “did he go” to “he went,” in Sentence 59 we change “does she wash everyday” to “she washes everyday,” in Sentence 60 we change “do they visit” to “they visit,” in Sentence 61 we change “does this bag cost” to “this bag costs,” and in Sentence 62 we change “did he arrive” to “he arrived.”

Activity 4.12

Form a wh-clause from each question below.

- 1 What should I do?

- 2 Whom are you talking about?

- 3 How long will they stay at the mountain?

- 4 What did you say?

- 5 Where did you swim last Sunday?

- 6 How many books does she read in a month?

- 7 Why don't you tell me the truth?

- 8 Whose house did they buy?

- 9 How old is the baby now?

Activity 4.13

Combine the following sets of sentences into one sentence containing a *wh*-clause as object. The first one is done for you.

1. a. Molly asked. *
b. Where are they going?
⇒ Molly asked where they were going.
2. a. The teacher decided. *
b. When will the students have their examination?
⇒ _____
3. a. The girls were discussing. *
b. What should they take to the party?
⇒ _____
4. a. The boys do not know.
b. Who will they ask to the party?
⇒ _____
5. a. I remember well.
b. What did you tell me that night?
⇒ _____
6. a. The facts show. *
b. How well does the manager run the company?
⇒ _____
7. a. The author suggests. *
b. What could we learn from his research?
⇒ _____
8. a. Mary did not understand.
b. Why did you not take her to the party?
⇒ _____
9. a. I was wondering.
b. How will the man save his skin this time?
⇒ _____

Activity 4.14

*Complete each of these sentences by supplying a *wh*-clause as object starting with words such as what, how, when, where, who, whom, why, which.*

1. I will ask _____.
2. My father will demonstrate _____.
3. My boyfriend and I are discussing _____.
4. My brother can not forget _____.
5. I can not imagine _____.
6. My sister knows _____.
7. My girlfriend remembers _____.
8. Jack is showing _____.
9. We have to understand _____.

Activity 4.15

*Construct sentences with Pattern S+V_t+O using *wh*-clause as object.*

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____
- 9 _____

