

5 SIMPLE SENTENCE

S+V_t+O_i+O_d

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

In Chapter 4 we learned that transitive verbs can be followed by a noun, a to-infinitive, a gerund, a that-clause, and a wh-clause as object. These verbs, which take one object to make a predicate, are called monotransitive verbs. In addition, some transitive verbs might simultaneously take two objects to make a predicate: a direct object (O_d) and an indirect object (O_i). Verbs of this type are called ditransitive verbs. Study the following sentences critically.

No	Subject	Verb	Indirect Object	Direct Object
1	My brother	bought		some books.
2	My brother	bought	me	some books.
3	My sister	sends		a letter.
4	My sister	sends	me	a letter.
5	Jack	brings		a bunch of flowers.
6	Jack	brings	his girlfriend	a bunch of flowers.
7	Molly	made		a cup of coffee.
8	Molly	made	Jack	a cup of coffee.

The objects of the transitive verbs in Sentences 1, 3, 5, and 7 are “some books,” “a letter,” “a bunch of flowers,” and “a cup of coffee,” respectively. These are the direct object (O_d). They are actually the real objects of the transitive verbs. The indirect objects of the verbs, “me,” “me,” “his girlfriend,” and “Jack,” in Sentences 2, 4, 6, and 8 respectively, merely provide additional information concerning the target or recipient of the action expressed through the verb and the direct object.

Thus, it seems that a direct object is more essential than an indirect object for a transitive verb to make a predicate. In other words, a transitive verb plus a direct object is more meaningful than a transitive verb plus an indirect object. For example, “Molly made a cup of coffee” certainly makes more sense than “Molly made Jack,” which is semantically ridiculous.

Activity 5.1

Following are 9 sentences with Pattern S+V_t+O_i+O_d. Identify the parts of each sentence: subject, verb, indirect object, and direct object.

1. My sister is boiling me some eggs.
2. Jack will buy his little brother a toy car.
3. I have cooked you some soup.
4. My father found me a boarding house.
5. Marry has got us some more materials.
6. Please give me another chance.
7. John might offer you a better salary.
8. I have promised my sister a birthday present.
9. My mother told me a story every night.

Activity 5.2

Supply an indirect object for each of these sentences.

1. The man will bring _____ some food.
2. She bought _____ a house.
3. My mother chose _____ a new blouse.
4. Jack lent _____ some money last month.
5. My brother made _____ a bowl of noodle.
6. My sister left _____ some cake in the fridge.
7. That woman sold _____ her old car.
8. The teacher showed _____ the correct answer.
9. My boyfriend writes _____ a letter every week.

Activity 5.3

Supply a direct object for each of these sentences.

1. My uncle will build his family _____.
2. My father bought my brother _____.
3. John has got us _____.
4. Will you give me _____.
5. Molly lent her brother _____.
6. My mother is going to make me _____.
7. My brother has promised me _____.
8. I am going to send my sister _____.
9. The old man showed us _____.

Pattern S+V_t+O_i+O_dConvertible to Pattern S+V_t+O_d+for+O_i

The common order in a predicate with a ditransitive verb is V+O_i+O_d. In other words, the indirect object comes after the verb and

before the direct object. Some of the times, however, we might want to place the indirect object after the direct object. When we do so, we usually will have to employ a preposition. In relation to this placement of indirect objects after the direct objects, ditransitive verbs are categorized into three groups:

1. Convertible with the use of the preposition “for,”
2. Convertible with the use of the preposition “to,” and
3. Non-convertible.

We are going to study each type separately. First of all, let us examine the sentences below analytically.

No	Subject	Verb	Indirect Object	Direct Object	Prepositional Phrase
9	Mary	bought	John	a new tie.	
10	Mary	bought		a new tie	for John.
11	My father	chose	the boys	a vacant house.	
12	My father	chose		a vacant house	for the boys.
13	John	found	Jack	a good servant.	
14	John	found		a good servant	for Jack.
15	My sister	made	Molly	a hot drink.	
16	My sister	made		a hot drink	for Molly.

In Sentences 9, 11, 13, and 15 the indirect objects are “John,” “the boys,” “Jack,” and “Molly,” respectively. Each of them comes right after the verb and before the direct object. If we want to place them after the direct object, we have to use the preposition “for,” such as in Sentences 10, 12, 14, and 16.

Below is a list of ditransitive verbs of this type, in which the indirect objects can be placed after the direct objects with the help of the preposition “for.” The list is not exhaustive, some other verbs of this type not included in it.

Verb	Example
boil	My sister is boiling us some eggs.
bring	My brother will bring me some blankets.
build	Jack has built himself a new brick house.
buy	My mother bought me new clothes last month.
call	I am going to call you a taxi.
choose	My father chose my sister a new school bag.
cook	My mother cooks us breakfast every morning.
do	This will do you no good.
find	Molly has found us a new job.

Verb	Example
get	I have got my mother a new washing machine.
leave	Mary left John a piece of cake on the table.
make	My brother is going to make my sister a wooden doll.
order	I have ordered each of us a bowl of noodle.
save	John has saved me some food in the fridge.
write	The secretary has written me a letter.
...	

Activity 5.4

Complete the following sentences by supplying either an indirect object, or a direct object, or both.

1. My father brought _____ a lot of books.
2. My brother built us _____.
3. I am going to buy _____ _____.
4. My boyfriend chose _____ a new pair of shoes.
5. My mother has found us _____.
6. Jack got _____ _____.
7. My sister left _____ some money.
8. Mary makes John _____.
9. Molly ordered _____ _____.

Activity 5.5

Construct sentences with Pattern S+V_t+O_i+O_d (→for).

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

8 _____

9 _____

Pattern S+V_t+O_i+O_d**Convertible to Pattern S+V_t+O_d+to+O_i**

In the previous section we learned the first type of ditransitive verbs, that is, those which require the use of the preposition “for” when the indirect object is placed after the direct object. The second type includes those ditransitive verbs which require the use of the preposition “to” if we move the indirect object after the direct object. Study the following sentences carefully.

No	Subject	Verb	Indirect Object	Direct Object	Prepositional Phrase
17	My mother	gave	that man	some clothes.	
18	My mother	gave		some clothes	to that man.
19	Jack	lends	my sister	a dictionary.	
20	Jack	lends		a dictionary	to my sister.
21	Molly	shows	everyone	her stamps.	
22	Molly	shows		her stamps	to everyone.
23	My father	told	me	his secret.	
24	My father	told		his secret	to me.

In Sentences 17, 19, 21, and 23 the indirect objects are “that man,” “my sister,” “everyone,” and “me,” respectively. Each of indirect objects comes right after the verb and before the direct object. If we want to put the indirect object after the direct object, we have to employ the preposition “to,” such as in Sentences 18, 20, 22, and 24.

Following is a list of ditransitive verbs of this type, in which the indirect objects can be placed after the direct objects with the utilization of the preposition “to.” It should be remembered that the list is not exhaustive, meaning that there are obviously some other verbs of this type which are not included in the list.

Verb	Example
bring	Bring me the brown box.
give	Mary gave the man some food.
grant	The committee has granted Jack a scholarship.
hand	Could you hand me your passport, please?
lend	My mother lent my sister her necklace last month.
offer	My brother offered my sister a good job in town.
owe	Do I owe you anything?
pass	Pass me the salt, please.
pay	John will pay you the money first thing in the morning.
promise	My father has promised me a welcome-home present.
sell	Molly sold me her house at a very low price.
send	I am going to send Jack this letter.
show	The woman showed us the way to open the box.
teach	This incident will surely teach them a lesson.
tell	My mother used to tell us a fairy story every night.
write	Mary wrote John a letter almost every week last year.
...	

Activity 5.6

Complete the following sentences by supplying either an indirect object, or a direct object, or both.

1. I have given _____ everything I have.
2. My brother is going to lend me _____.
3. Mary has offered _____.
4. My sister promised _____ an unforgettable holiday.
5. My brother will not sell John _____.
6. My mother has sent _____.
7. Jack did not show _____ his new car.
8. My father teaches me _____ everyday.
9. Molly told _____.

Activity 5.7

Construct sentences with Pattern S+V_t+O_i+O_d (→ to).

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____

9 _____

Pattern S+V_t+O_d+preposition+O_i Non-Convertible

In the previous two sections we learned two types of ditransitive verbs: (1) those of which the indirect objects could be placed after the direct object through the use of the preposition “for” and (2) those of which the indirect objects could be placed after the direct object through the use of the preposition “to.” Now, there is a third type of ditransitive verbs—those of which the indirect objects are always introduced by a preposition. Most of the times, the preposition used is “to.” Study the following sentences critically.

No	Subject	Verb	Indirect Object	Direct Object	Prepositional Phrase
25	Mary	said		something	to me.
26	Mary	said	me	something.*	
27	Mary	said	to me	something that I could not possibly tell you.	
28	Jack	explained		the plan	to us.
29	Jack	explained	us	the plan.*	
30	Jack	explained	to us	the plan that he had made to save the project.	

The direct object of the verb “said” in Sentence 25 is “something,” while the indirect object—meaning the target or the recipient of the action—is “me” introduced by the preposition “to.” In this case the preposition “to” is a must. If we omit the preposition “to” and place the indirect object right after the verb and before the direct object, the resulting sentence, Sentence 26, is an ungrammatical one. However, if we move the indirect object together with the preposition “to,” we will have a grammatical sentence, such as in Sentence 27. Thus, the preposition “to” is a must, whether we place the indirect object after or before the direct object. The very same thing is also demonstrated by Sentences 28 through 30.

Below is a list of ditransitive verbs which belong to this group, which are followed by indirect objects which are always introduced by a preposition. The list below is not exhaustive, though. Neither is the preposition invariable.

Verb	Example
admit (to)	Jack admitted his mistakes to us.
confess (to)	My brother confessed his weakness to me.
explain (to)	The woman explained to us the uses of each cooking tools.
express (to)	Molly cannot express her misery to her boyfriend.
prove (to)	We can prove out theory to you.
report (to)	The children did not report the incident to their parents.
say (to)	My brother said nothing to me this morning.
speak (to)	Mary spoke Chinese to her children.
...	

Activity 5.8

Complete the following sentences by supplying either an indirect object, or a direct object, or both.

1. My brother expresses his gratefulness _____.
2. My mother explained _____ to my sister.
3. Mary has admitted _____.
4. Jack confessed his guilt _____.
5. Molly said _____ to Mary.
6. The new manager is explaining _____.
7. My sister has not admitted her disappointment _____.
8. The children confessed _____ to me.
9. We should express _____.

Activity 5.9

Construct sentences with Pattern S+V_t+O_i+O_d.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____

9 _____

