

3 Direct and indirect objects

1 Introduction



Henry gave Claire some flowers.

Here the verb **give** has two objects. **Claire** is the indirect object, the person receiving something. **Some flowers** is the direct object, the thing that someone gives.

Henry gave some flowers to Claire.

Here **give** has a direct object (**some flowers**) and a phrase with **to**. **To** comes before **Claire**, the person receiving something.

Here are some more examples of the two structures.

	INDIRECT OBJECT	DIRECT OBJECT		DIRECT OBJECT	PHRASE WITH TO/FOR
<i>Emma gave</i>	Rachel	a CD.	<i>Emma gave</i>	the CD	to Rachel.
<i>I'll send</i>	my cousin	a postcard.	<i>I'll send</i>	a postcard	to my cousin.
<i>We bought</i>	all the children	an ice-cream.	<i>We bought</i>	ice-creams	for all the children.

2 To or for?

We give something **to** someone, and we buy something **for** someone.

We can use **to** with these verbs: **bring, feed, give, hand, lend, offer, owe, pass, pay, post, promise, read, sell, send, show, take, teach, tell, throw, write**

Vicky paid the money to the cashier. OR Vicky paid the cashier the money.

Let me read this news item to you. OR Let me read you this news item.

We showed the photos to David. OR We showed David the photos.

We can use **for** with these verbs: **book, bring, build, buy, choose, cook, fetch, find, get, leave, make, order, pick, reserve, save**

They found a spare ticket for me. OR They found me a spare ticket.

I've saved a seat for you. OR I've saved you a seat.

Melanie is making a cake for David. OR Melanie is making David a cake.

3 Give + pronoun

Sometimes there is a pronoun and a noun after a verb such as **give**.

The pronoun usually comes before the noun.

Henry is very fond of Claire. He gave her some flowers.

We use **her** because **Claire** is mentioned earlier. **Her** comes before **some flowers**.

Henry bought some flowers. He gave them to Claire.

We use **them** because the flowers are mentioned earlier. **Them** comes before **Claire**.

Practice

A Give (1)

Look at the Christmas presents and write sentences about them.

Put one of these words at the end of each sentence: *necklace, scarf, sweater, tennis racket, watch.*

▶ To Mike
From Harriet



1 To Melanie
From David



2 To Trevor
From Laura



3 To Matthew
From Emma



4 To Claire
From Henry



▶ Harriet gave Mike a watch.....

- 1 3
- 2 4

B Indirect object or to? (1)

Write the information in one sentence. Put the underlined part at the end of the sentence. Sometimes you need *to*.

- ▶ Daniel lent something to Vicky. It was his calculator. → Daniel lent Vicky his calculator.....
- ▶ Mark sent a message. It was to his boss. → Mark sent a message to his boss.....
- 1 Emma sold her bike. Her sister bought it. → Emma
- 2 Tom told the joke. He told all his friends. → Tom
- 3 Melanie gave some help. She helped her neighbour. → Melanie
- 4 Ilona wrote to her teacher. She wrote a letter. → Ilona

C To or for? (2)

Mark's boss at Zedco is Mr Atkins. He is telling people to do things. Put in *to* or *for*.

- ▶ Give these papers to my secretary. 3 Don't show these plans anyone.
- ▶ Could you make some coffee for us? 4 Leave a message my secretary.
- 1 Book a flight me, could you? 5 Fetch the file me, could you?
- 2 Can you post this cheque the hotel? 6 Write a memo all managers.

D Give + pronoun (3)

Complete each answer using the words in brackets. Sometimes you need to use *to* or *for*.

- ▶ Matthew: Why is everyone laughing? (a funny story / us)
Vicky: Daniel told us a funny story.....
- ▶ Trevor: There's some fish left over. (it / the cat)
Laura: I'll feed it to the cat.....
- 1 Mark: What are you doing with those bottles? (them / the bottle bank)
Sarah: I'm taking
- 2 Trevor: How are things with you, Daniel? (a job / me)
Daniel: Fine. Someone has offered
- 3 David: What about those papers you found? (them / the police)
Tom: Oh, I handed
- 4 Emma: It's pouring with rain, look. (my umbrella / you)
Rachel: It's OK. I'll lend