for CHAPTER 4: COMPLEMENTS pages 81–83

Objects of Verbs: Direct Objects, Indirect Objects

Direct Objects

A direct object is a noun, pronoun, or word group that tells who or what receives the action of the verb.

A direct object answers the question *Whom?* or *What?* after the verb.

EXAMPLES Have you painted **anything** recently? [The pronoun anything receives the action of the verb Have painted and answers the question Have you painted what?]

> My class painted Smallville Middle School last year. [The noun Smallville Middle School receives the action of the verb painted and answers the question What did my class paint?]

I painted my **room** and my **door** during the summer. [The nouns room and door receive the action of the verb painted and answer the question What did I paint?]

EXERCISE A Underline the direct object or objects in each of the following sentences.

- **Example 1.** The city is paving Main Street and Central Avenue again! [The nouns *Main Street* and Central Avenue receive the action of the verb is paving and answer the question What is the city paving?]
- 1. We decorated the patio with pottery. [Which word receives the action of the verb decorated?]
- **2.** Does the red tile match the pottery?
- **3.** They recently built a fountain in the center of the garden.
- **4.** Goldfish eagerly ate insects and bits of food on the surface.
- 5. Has a photographer taken pictures of the pool and garden?

Indirect Objects

An indirect object is a noun, pronoun, or a word group that sometimes appears in sentences containing direct objects.

An indirect object answers the question To whom? or To what? or For whom? or For what? after the verb.

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pages 81**-8**3 for CHAPTER 4: COMPLEMENTS

EXAMPLES Give **Sam** and **Mr. Wilson** copies of the letter. [The nouns Sam and Mr.

continued

Wilson answer the question To whom?]

Give the patio a good cleaning. [The noun patio answers the question To what?

NOTE An indirect object is never in a prepositional phrase. A noun or pronoun that follows to or for is the object of the preposition, not an indirect object.

> **EXAMPLE** Jane sent a postcard to her family. [To her family is a prepositional phrase. Family is the object of the preposition to, not the indirect object of the verb.]

EXERCISE ${\mathbb B}$ Draw one line under the indirect object or objects in each of the following sentences.

- **Example 1.** Raul asked Teresa and me a question about the assignment. [The noun Teresa and the pronoun me answer the question To whom? after the verb and are the indirect objects.]
- 6. Ruby wrote her aunt and uncle a thank-you note. [Which word or words answer the question To whom? after the verb?]
- 7. Mom knit the baby a blue blanket.
- 8. Did the judge give Julio and Tina their blue ribbons?
- **9.** Send Grandpa his birthday present on Monday.
- Reuben handed her a set of chopsticks.

 \mathbb{E} XERCISE \mathbb{C} Draw one line under the direct object in each of the following sentences. Draw two lines under the indirect objects.

- **Example 1.** My grandmother promised my brother and me her copy of that book. [Copy receives the action of the verb and is the direct object. Brother and me answer the question To whom? after the verb and are the indirect objects.]
- 11. No book can match a real garden. [Which word receives the action of the verb can match?]
- 12. My grandmother made me a wreath of flowers and vines.
- **13.** I hung my wreath on my bedroom door at home.
- 14. Grandmother's garden attracts many visitors.
- **15.** We are building Grandmother's garden a bench.

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