

## 4.6 Direct and Indirect Objects

Some verbs are followed by both a direct and an indirect object. The order of the objects sometimes depends on the verb.<sup>6</sup> It sometimes depends on pronoun use.

### EXAMPLES

EXAMPLES			EXPLANATION																																											
<p><b>Pattern A:</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>Subj.</b></td> <td><b>Verb</b></td> <td><b>Indirect Obj.</b></td> <td><b>Direct Obj.</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>We</td> <td>gave</td> <td>the couple</td> <td>a wedding gift.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>They</td> <td>sent</td> <td>us</td> <td>a thank-you card.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>She</td> <td>read</td> <td>the groom</td> <td>her vows.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>They</td> <td>showed</td> <td>me</td> <td>their pictures.</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Subj.</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Indirect Obj.</b>	<b>Direct Obj.</b>	We	gave	the couple	a wedding gift.	They	sent	us	a thank-you card.	She	read	the groom	her vows.	They	showed	me	their pictures.	<p><b>Pattern B:</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>Subj.</b></td> <td><b>Verb</b></td> <td><b>Direct Obj.</b></td> <td><b>To Indirect Obj.</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>We</td> <td>gave</td> <td>a wedding gift</td> <td>to the couple.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>She</td> <td>read</td> <td>her vows</td> <td>to the groom.</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Subj.</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Direct Obj.</b>	<b>To Indirect Obj.</b>	We	gave	a wedding gift	to the couple.	She	read	her vows	to the groom.	<p>With the following verbs, we follow Pattern A or Pattern B.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>bring</td> <td>read</td> <td>show</td> </tr> <tr> <td>give</td> <td>sell</td> <td>tell</td> </tr> <tr> <td>offer</td> <td>send</td> <td>write</td> </tr> <tr> <td>pay</td> <td>(e-)mail</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	bring	read	show	give	sell	tell	offer	send	write	pay	(e-)mail	
<b>Subj.</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Indirect Obj.</b>	<b>Direct Obj.</b>																																											
We	gave	the couple	a wedding gift.																																											
They	sent	us	a thank-you card.																																											
She	read	the groom	her vows.																																											
They	showed	me	their pictures.																																											
<b>Subj.</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Direct Obj.</b>	<b>To Indirect Obj.</b>																																											
We	gave	a wedding gift	to the couple.																																											
She	read	her vows	to the groom.																																											
bring	read	show																																												
give	sell	tell																																												
offer	send	write																																												
pay	(e-)mail																																													
<p>Ed gave Ann a ring. He gave <b>it</b> to Ann on her birthday. Do you have the pictures? Can you show <b>them</b> to me?</p>	<p>When the direct object is a pronoun, we follow Pattern B.</p>	<p>In Pattern A, we put the indirect object before the direct object.</p> <p>In Pattern B, we put the direct object first and then use <i>to</i> + the indirect object.</p>																																												
<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Please explain</td> <td>to me.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Please describe</td> <td>the wedding</td> </tr> </table>	Please explain	to me.	Please describe	the wedding	<p>With the following verbs, we follow Pattern B: direct object <i>to</i> indirect object.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>announce</td> <td>mention</td> <td>say</td> </tr> <tr> <td>describe</td> <td>prove</td> <td>suggest</td> </tr> <tr> <td>explain</td> <td>report</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	announce	mention	say	describe	prove	suggest	explain	report																																	
Please explain	to me.																																													
Please describe	the wedding																																													
announce	mention	say																																												
describe	prove	suggest																																												
explain	report																																													