

	Subject	Predicate			
		verb	indirect object	direct object	other stuff
1	Bobby	cut	him	a piece of the really nice cake	
2	Suzy	bought	herself	a fishing rod	
3	he	taught	those weird people	some useful lessons	
4	I	gave	them	a book	
5	I	gave		a book	to them
6	The funny monkey	ate		old and dead fruit flies	for her
7	They	skate		really nicely	
8	They	skate		really nicely for them	

Examples 1 through 4 have real indirect objects; examples 5 and 8 have prepositional “indirect objects” (*to them* and *for them*); example 7 doesn’t have an indirect object; examples 6 through 8 can’t have real indirect objects.

Here are some things to notice about indirect objects:

1. They involve nouns, pronouns, or noun phrases
2. If you use a pronoun as an indirect object or replace a noun or noun phrase indirect object with a pronoun, the pronoun will be in the object case
3. If a verb has both an indirect object and a direct object, the indirect object is the first object and the direct object is the second
4. indirect objects can only occur with verbs that allow them. Verbs that allow direct objects are transitive; but not all transitive verbs can take an indirect object (e.g. *ate*).
5. You can always convert real indirect objects to prepositional “indirect objects” (cf. sentences 4 and 5); but you can’t always convert prepositional “indirect objects” to real indirect objects (e.g. you can’t convert sentence 6 to read: **The funny money ate her old and dead fruitflies*).

Prepositional Objects

Prepositional objects are, as the name suggests, objects of a preposition. Otherwise, they are very similar to the direct objects of verbs.

Here are some examples:

	Preposition	Prepositional object
1	on	the mountain
2	up	the really long creek
3	with	them
4	for	Suzy
5	beside	homecoming queens

Here are some things to observe; you will see that they are very similar to what we have already observed about indirect and direct objects: