INDIRECT OBJECTS NOUN CLAUSE

CH.12 PART TWO

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Indirect objects.

Some verbs never take objects while some others always do (IV, 10). There are also some verbs that frequently have two objects, one direct and one indirect. An indirect object is usually a person to whom or for whom something is done.

Ø, to, or for

Some indirect objects occur without an introductory preposition. Others are introduced by *to* or *for*. The pattern is controlled by the verb. Some verbs allow two patterns.

Here is a list of some of the most common ones.

To	To or Ø	Ø	Ø or For	FOR
Admit	Bring	Ask	Build	Answer
Announce	Give	Charge	Buy	Cash
Describe	Lend	Cost	Draw	Change
Explain	Offer		Find	Design
Introduce	Owe		Get	Do
Mention	Pay		make	Prepare
Recommend	Sell			Prescribe
Say	Send			pronounce
Speak	Show			
Suggest	Teach			
	Tell			
	Write			

Position of an indirect object

Position of an indirect object in a sentence varies according to whether or not it is introduced by a preposition, and also according to the nature of the direct

1. If no preposition introduces the indirect object, it precedes the direct object.

S	V	I.O.	D.O.
Professor Baker	asked	a student	the time.
The student	told	him	that it was ten after two

2. If the indirect object is introduced by *to* or *for*, and if the direct object is a simple noun phrase, the indirect object follows the direct object.

S	V	D.O.	I.O.
Professor Baker	explained	oxidation	to his students
He	had prepared	some questions	for them

3. If the direct object is a clause, or if it contains a clause, the indirect object precedes it.

S	V	I.O.	D.O.
Professor Baker	told	his students	that he has lost his watch.
He	mentioned	to them	that he was sorry he was late
He	had prepared	for them	some questions which would help them understand the lesson.

Say / tell / talk / speak

Students frequently have difficulty deciding which of these words to use, and that is not surprising because they all refer to the same activity. The difference is that they are used in different patterns.

A. *Say* is most frequently used to introduce direct or indirect quotation.

S	V	D.O
Professor Baker	said	"I have lost my watch"
Professor Baker	said	he had lost his watch

B. *Tell* is rarely used for direct quotation. It requires an indirect object except in certain idioms.

S	V	I.O	D.O.
Professor Baker	told	his students	that he had lost his watch

Tell is also used in the following idioms, with or without an indirect object.

tell a story	tell the truth	tell the time
tell a secret	tell a lie	tell (all) about

C. *Talk* usually refers to a conversation between two (or more) people. It is not followed by a direct object (except in a few idioms; e.g., *talk business*). It sometimes has an indirect object after to.

S	V	I.O	D.O.
The students	talked		until the professor arrived.
Students	do not talk	to one another	during an examination.

D. *Speak* sometimes means to greet. In this case it is followed by an indirect object introduced by *to*.

Professor Baker always speaks to his students when he meets them on campus.

Speak is also used in reference to more formal situations.

Professor Miller spoke at the Rotary Club. (He gave a lecture.)
The dean spoke to Jack about his attendance record. (He reprimanded him.)

Speak is always used with the names of languages.

George speaks Greek with his cousin and English with his classmates.

NOUN CLAUSES

a. *That* is the connective most often used to introduce a noun-clause object after *say* or *tell*. It is often omitted in speech and in informal writing.

S	V	I.O.	D.O.			
			CM	S	V	C
Professor Baker	said		(that)	he	was	sorry.
He	told	his students	(that)	he	had lost	his watch.
Nick	said		(that)	George's father	had been	ill.

b. *Ask*, when it means to place a question, is never followed by a *that* clause. It may have a clause object introduced by *if*.

S	V	I.O.	D.O.			
			CM	S	V	C
Jack	asked	Bill	if	he	had solved	the problem.
Bill	asked	Jack	if	he	had eaten	dinner.

Two-word Verbs

show up: appear

give up: surrender, stop trying

get over (an illness): recover from

Verb with preposition.

work on

THE END OF PART 1