

# Direct vs. Indirect Objects

- A **Direct Object** is a noun or pronoun that receives the action of a verb.
- **Step One:** Find the **verb**.
- **Step Two:** ask the verb + **Whom or What?** question. The answer is your **Direct Object**.
- Example: The cat chased the mouse.  
What is the verb? **chased**  
chased whom or what? **The mouse** (the direct object)
- Example: I sent flowers to the party.  
What is the verb? **sent**  
sent whom or what? **flowers** (the direct object)
- **\*\*\*Direct objects can stand alone. Indirect Objects cannot exist without a Direct Object, and they are always placed before the Direct Object in the sentence. Indirect Objects are never part of a prepositional phrase.**

# Indirect Objects

- An **Indirect Object** is a noun or pronoun that follows the action verb. Find the verb, and follow the above steps for Direct Object. Then ask the *To Whom, For Whom, or For What?* question. The answer is your **Indirect Object**.
- **Step One:** Find the *verb*.
- **Step Two:** ask the *verb* + **Whom or What?** question. The answer is your **Direct Object**.
- **Step Three:** ask the *verb* + *direct object* + **to whom, for whom, or for what?** question. The answer is your **Indirect Object**
- Example: I sent Grandmother the package..  
What is the verb? **sent**  
sent whom or what? **the package** (the direct object)  
sent the package to whom, for whom or for what? **Grandmother** (the indirect object)
- **\*\*\*Indirect Objects as part of a prepositional phrase are NO LONGER considered Indirect Objects**

# Practice

## **Direct / Indirect Objects: Label the *DO* and/or the *IO*.**

- 1. This report gives the world new insights into genetic engineering.
- 2. Many people use their hands in conversation.
- 3. Blind children use gestures as often as sighted children do.
- 4. The university scholarship awarded the recipient \$25,000.
- 5. Don't forget to bring the coffee!
- 6. Please pass the information to your

# Check your Work:

## **Direct / Indirect Objects: Label the *DO* and/or the *IO*.**

- 1. This report gives **the world (IO)** **new insights (DO)** into genetic engineering.
- 2. Many people use **their hands (DO)** in conversation. **No IO in this sentence**
- 3. Blind children use **gestures (DO)** as often as sighted children do. **No IO in this sentence.**
- 4. The university scholarship awarded **the recipient (IO)** **\$25,000 (DO)**.
- 5. Don't forget to bring **the coffee (DO)**! **No IO in this sentence.**
- 6. Please pass **the information (DO)** to your committee. **No IO in this sentence.**