

# LESSON NOTES - STEP 4

Words that complete the thoughts of a sentence are called **COMPLEMENTS**. There are two kinds of complements: those that **FOLLOW ACTION VERBS** and those that **FOLLOW LINKING VERBS**.

Complements that follow an **ACTION VERB** include:  
a **DIRECT OBJECT**, an **INDIRECT OBJECT**, and an **OBJECTIVE COMPLEMENT**.

Complements that follow a **LINKING VERB** include:  
**PREDICATE NOMINATIVES** and **PREDICATE ADJECTIVES**

**Follow these steps to find complements:**

1. **If a sentence has an action verb, look for a DIRECT OBJECT. A direct object (D.O.)** is a noun or pronoun that completes the meaning of the sentence. **To find the direct object:** Say the subject, say the verb, and then ask whom? or what? The answer will be the direct object:

**Example:** Ted hit **Sam**. Ted hit whom? "**Sam**" is the direct object.

Sometimes the direct object is compound, with a conjunction between two or more items:

**Example:** I like **cake and ice cream**. I like what?  
BOTH "**cake**" and "**cream**" are direct objects here.

2. **If a sentence has a direct object, look for an INDIRECT OBJECT or an OBJECTIVE COMPLEMENT.**

a) An **indirect object (I.O.)** is a noun or pronoun that precedes the direct object and answers the questions "to whom?" or "for whom?" The words of the sentence would come in this order: Subject, Verb, **Indirect Object**, Direct Object. (The indirect object would precede the direct object.)

**NOTE: A Sentence CANNOT Have An INDIRECT OBJECT Unless There Is A DIRECT OBJECT.**

**To find the indirect object:** Say the subject, say the verb, say the direct object, and then ask "to whom?" or "for whom?"

**Example:** The book club sent its members cards.  
Club (the subject) sent (verb) cards (direct object) to whom?  
"**Members**" is the answer, and thus it is the indirect object.

**Indirect Objects can be compound**, meaning there will be a conjunction between two indirect objects.

**Example:** I gave **Maria and Pablo** a ride to church.  
Ask yourself: I gave a ride "to whom?"  
Both "**Maria**" and "**Pablo**" were given a ride to church, so **BOTH** are indirect objects in this sentence.

b) An **objective complement (O.C.)** is a word that **follows a direct object and renames or describes it**. It may be a **noun or an adjective**. The word order would be: subject, verb, direct object, objective complement.

**Example of RENAMING the direct object:** We consider her a good player.

“Player” follows the direct object “her” and **renames** it, so “**player**” is an objective complement.

**Example of DESCRIBING the direct object:** Many call him **unbeatable**.

“Unbeatable” follows the direct object “him” and describes it, so “**unbeatable**” is an objective complement.

(continued)

### LESSON NOTES: COMPLEMENTS - CONTINUED

Sometimes the objective complement is compound.

**Example:** Some think him **arrogant** and **rude**.

BOTH “arrogant” and “rude” follow the direct object and describe it,  
so BOTH are objective complements.

An objective complement frequently occurs in sentences with these verbs: “appoint,” “call,” “choose,” “consider,” “elect,” “find,” “make,” “keep,” “name,” and “think.”

3. If the verb is **LINKING**, look for a **predicate nominative** or a **predicate adjective**.

a) A **predicate nominative** (PN.) is a noun or pronoun that **renames the subject**.

**Example:** He is my **friend**. “Friend” renames the subject “he.”

“**Friend**” is a **predicate nominative**.

The pronouns which can be predicate nominatives are: “I,” “we,” “you,” “she,” “he,” “it,” and “they.”)

**Example:** It was she. “She” renames the subject “it.”

“**She**” is a **predicate nominative**.

b) A **predicate adjective** (P.A.) is an adjective that follows a linking verb and **modifies the subject** of the sentence.

**Example:** That man is really **handsome**. “Handsome” modifies the subject “man.”

“**Handsome**” is a predicate adjective.

c) **Predicate adjectives AND predicate nominatives** may be compound.

Example: I am happy and sad.

**BOTH** “happy” and “sad” are predicate adjectives in this sentence.

A SIMPLE TEST TO SEE IF A WORD IS A PREDICATE NOMINATIVE (P.N.) OR A PREDICATE ADJECTIVE (P.A.) IS TO TRY TO MAKE THE WORD PLURAL.

**Predicate Adjectives CANNOT be made plural.**

**Example:** She is **pretty**.

In this sentence, “pretty” is a **predicate adjective** because you CANNOT make the word “pretty” plural. (“prettys”?)

**Predicate Nominatives CAN be made plural.**

Examples: She is a **girl**. It was **he**.

In these sentences, “girl” is a **predicate nominative** because you CAN make the word “girl” plural - (girls) and “he” is a predicate nominative because the plural of “he” is “they.”

#### REVIEW:

If there is a word following the verb that completes the meaning of the sentence, it is called a complement.

An **action verb** can have three types of complements: direct object, indirect object, and objective complement.

A **linking verb** can have two types of complements: predicate nominative or predicate adjective.

**Since the verb determines the type of complement, you will practice each complement type separately.**

## LESSON PRACTICE A - DIRECT OBJECTS

A sentence with an action verb may have a direct object. To determine which word in a sentence is the direct object, it will be necessary to first identify the subject and the verb. (Note: Not all sentences contain a direct object.)

To do that, eliminate the prepositional phrases first (as you learned in STEP 1 of the program). This will make the sentences shorter and the subjects and verbs easier to find. Next, find the verb or verb phrase (as you did in STEP 2), underlining it. Then, find the subject (usually in front of the verb as in STEP 3), bolding it.

Finally, find the direct object. To accomplish that, do the following: Say the subject, say the verb, and then ask the question “whom?” or “what?”. Italicize the complements.

Sample sentence: Maria took pictures at the party.

Step 1 - Eliminate any prepositional phrase: Maria took pictures [~~at the party~~]

Step 2 - Underline the verb: Maria took pictures

Step 3 - Look for the subject in front of the verb and bold it (if a statement not beginning with a prepositional phrase, “here”, “there”, or implied): **Maria** took pictures.

Step 4A - Since the verb “took” is an action verb, look for a direct object and italicize it.

Say: “Maria took what?” The answer is “pictures.”

So, “*pictures*” is the direct object.

**Follow STEPS 1 - 4A, as above, to find the direct object in the following sentences:**

1. I gave the tickets to John.

**Step 1:**

**Step 2:**

**Step 3:**

**Step 4A:**

2. Tammy should not have hit me in the arm with the ball.

**Step 1:**

**Step 2:**

**Step 3:**

**Step 4A:**

3. Santa brought new toys to the children for Christmas.

**Step 1:**

**Step 2:**

**Step 3: Step**

**4A:**

# LESSON PRACTICE - OVERHEAD TRANSPARENCY MASTER

A sentence with an action verb may have a direct object. To determine which word in a sentence is the direct object, it will be necessary to first identify the subject and the verb. (Note: A sentence does not always contain a direct object.)

**Sample sentence: Maria took pictures at the party.**

**Step 1 - Eliminate any prepositional phrase:** Maria took pictures [~~at the party~~]

**Step 2 - Underline the verb:** Maria took pictures

**Step 3 - Bold the subject in front of the verb (unless a question or beginning with a prepositional phrase, “here,” “there,” or implied):** **Maria** took pictures

**Step 4 A - Since the verb “took” is an action verb, look for a direct object.**

Say: “Maria took what?” The answer is “pictures. “*Pictures*” is the **DIRECT**

**OBJECT.** Follow the steps in the following sentences and find the direct object.

1. I gave the tickets to John.

**Step 1:** I gave the tickets [~~to John~~]. (Eliminate the prepositional phrase.)

**Step 2:** I gave the tickets (Underline the verb or verb phrase.)

**Step 3:** I gave the tickets (Find the subject in front of the verb.)

**Step 4A:** Since the verb “gave” is an ACTION verb, look for a DIRECT OBJECT. Say: I GAVE WHAT? “**Tickets**” is the **DIRECT OBJECT.**

2. Tammy should not have hit me in the arm with the ball.

Step 1: Tammy should not have hit me [~~in the arm~~] [~~with the ball~~].

Step 2: Tammy should not have hit me (ACTION

VERB) Step 3: **Tammy** should not have hit me

Step 4A- Since the verb “hit” is action, look for a direct object.

Say: Tammy should have HIT WHOM? “**Me**” is the **DIRECT OBJECT.**

3. Santa brought new toys to the children for Christmas.

Step 1: Santa brought new toys [~~to the children~~] [~~for Christmas~~].

Step 2: Santa **brought** new toys (ACTION VERB)

Step 3: **Santa** brought new toys

Step 4A: Say: Santa BROUGHT WHAT? “**Toys**” is the **DIRECT OBJECT.**

# GROUP PRACTICE A - DIRECT OBJECTS

INSTRUCTIONS: Put [ ] around each of the prepositional phrases. Find the verb or verb phrase and underline it. Label the helping verbs as “HV”, and label the verb as “A”ction or “L”inking. Bold the subject. Find the direct object and italicize it. The first one has been done for you. (You may wish to copy these onto your own paper before working them.)

1. The **teacher** took the *class* [~~on a picnic~~].
2. **Carl Sandburg** wrote many *poems* [about cities].
3. **We** gave our *projects* [to the teacher].
4. **Bobby** expected a higher *grade* [in chemistry].
5. The **dancers** sent a special *invitation* [to Louise].
6. Can you mail these *letters* [for me]?
7. The **contractor** built a new apartment *building* [down the street] [from the park].
8. **I** saw *Margie* [with the keys].
9. The soccer **coach** described some new *plays* [to her team].
10. **Pat Conroy** wrote *The Prince of Tides*.
11. [After a long wait], **we** finally got our *notices*.
12. That **saleswoman** sold a used *stereo* [to my father].
13. **I** made several flower *baskets* [for each person] [in the retirement home].
14. **Aunt Marie** took my *brother* and *me* [to the store].
15. **Barbara** ran the *boat* [into the dock].
16. The **teacher** must have made a *mistake* [on my grade].
17. **Max** knitted a *sweater* [in home economics class].
18. [For lunch], **I** ordered a *sandwich* and a *Coke*.
19. The lion **tamer** lost his *whip* and *chair*.
20. **Susan** and **Sam** made the fruit *salad* [for the dinner].

# INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE A - DIRECT OBJECTS

INSTRUCTIONS: Put [brackets] around each of the prepositional phrases and then draw a single line through each of them.

Find the verb or verb phrase and underline it twice. Label the helping verbs as "HV", and label the verb as "A"ction or

"L"inking. Underline the subject once. Find the direct object, put a box around it, and label it with "D.O." The first one has been done for you. (You may wish to copy these onto your own paper before working them.)

1. **Christine** expected a lower *score* [on the exam].
2. The **actors** sent a special invitation [to their patrons].
3. Did **you** send these *roses* [to me]?
4. The **engineer** built a new *bridge* [over the freeway].
5. **I** saw the *magician* and the *clown* [after the show].
6. The baseball **coach** described some new *pitches* [to his team].
7. [After a long winter], **we** finally got some *sunshine*.
8. That **child** bought a *skateboard* [from my father's store].
9. That **duet** usually sings familiar folk *songs*.
10. **I** have read that *book*.
11. The **teacher** is sewing new *costumes* [for the play].
12. The **children** took the *bus* [to the park].
13. **William Shakespeare** wrote many *plays* [for the stage].
14. **He** gave his *money* [to the teacher].
15. **Washington Irving** wrote many good short *stories*.
16. **They** must have made a million *dollars* [on that book].
17. **I** had been reviewing my *notes*.
18. **Jaime** was planting *fruits* and *vegetables* [in her garden].
19. **Nobody** [in the room] said a *word* [about it].
20. **You** should have asked *Jacob* and *me* [for help].