

Direct Objects and Indirect Objects

What is an object when we are talking about parts of a sentence? An **object** is *the person or thing the sentence's subject acts on or toward*. The underlined words in the sentences below are objects.

He jumped over the creek.

She pets her cat.

Alan and Bella baked a pie for their mother.

What did he jump over? He jumped over the creek. What did she pet? It was her cat she petted. What did Alan and Bella bake? They baked a pie. For whom was the pie baked? They baked it for their mother.

How do you tell if an object is a direct object or an indirect object?

A **direct object** *tells you who or what the subject acted on*. It is the person or thing the verb is done on.

An **indirect object** *tells you to or for whom or what the direct object is acted upon*.

I made a dress for my sister.

Greta sang her doll a song.

He made dinner for all of us.

Can you tell which of the objects in each sentence are the direct object and the indirect object?

What did I make? I made a dress. This means dress is the direct object of the first sentence. For whom was the dress made? It was made for my sister. This means sister is the indirect object.

Who or what did Greta sing to in the second sentence? She sang to her doll. Doll is the indirect object. What did she sing? She sang a song. Song the direct object.

What did he make? He made dinner, so dinner is the direct object. For whom did he make dinner? He made dinner for us, so us is the indirect object.