

9 **Indirect objects.** We have already discussed the fact that some verbs never take objects and that 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.

a. \emptyset ,¹ *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 \emptyset	\emptyset	\emptyset 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			

¹ Verbs marked \emptyset take indirect objects without prepositions.

b. 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 object.

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 had 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.