

DIRECT OBJECTS, INDIRECT OBJECTS, PREDICATE NOMINATIVES, AND PREDICATE ADJECTIVES

1. **A direct object follows an action verb and answers the question “Whom?” or “What?”** It is always a noun or a pronoun. Not all action verbs require direct objects. Study the following examples:

Joe likes **apples** and **corn**. The direct objects “apples” and “corn” answer “Joe likes what?”

The boy in the red coat bought a new **kite**. “Kite” answers “The boy bought what?”

Henry waited on the corner. There is no direct object following the action verb “waited.”

2. **An indirect object comes between the action verb and the direct object and answers the question “To whom?” or “For whom?”** It is always a noun or pronoun and never appears by itself without a direct object. (Note: The words “to” and “for” are only implied in the sentence; if they actually appear in the sentence, then you have a prepositional phrase, not an indirect object.) For example:

Joe gave **me** an apple. The indirect object “me” answers “Joe gave an apple to whom?” “Me” comes between the action verb “gave” and the direct object “apple.” (There is no indirect object in these sentences: “Joe gave to me an apple,” or “Joe gave an apple to me.”)

The boy in the red coat bought his **brother** a new kite. The indirect object “brother” answers “The boy bought a new kite for whom?” “Brother” comes between the action verb “bought” and the direct object “kite.”

3. **A predicate nominative follows a linking verb (is, are, was, were, am, be, seems, feels, etc.) and renames the subject of the sentence.** Subject complements may be nouns, pronouns, or adjectives. Study the following examples:

Joe is a **vegetarian**. The subject complement “vegetarian” follows the linking verb “is” and renames the subject “Joe.”

4. **A predicate adjective follows a linking verb (is, are, was, were, am, be, seems, feels, etc.) and describes the subject of the sentence** Study the following examples:

The boy’s new kite was **blue**. The predicate adjective “blue” follows the linking verb “was” and describes the subject “kite.”

A. Circle only the direct objects in the following sentences.

1. Jerry was so happy because of his promotion. (No direct object because you have a ‘no action’ verb (was) He hugged **everyone** in the room. (He hugged who or what – “everyone”
2. I passed the **test**. (I passed who or what – test) I studied the **text** (I studied who or what – Text) for three hours three nights in a row. I also reviewed my **notes**. (I reviewed who or what - notes)
3. Janet loves all **sorts** of music. (D.O. can’t be music because music is in a prep. Phrase ‘of music.’ Janet loves who or what – sorts - She attends concerts whenever she can.
4. In my house, I feed the **dog**. (I feed who or what-dog) However, my wife feeds the **cat** and waters the **plants**. (wife feeds who or what – cat wife waters who or what – plants. There are 2 verbs in sentence.)
5. His favorite singers are Frank Sinatra and Koko Taylor. (No D.O. because you have a ‘no action’ verb – ‘are’) I like **Mick Jagger** and **Bette Middler**. (I like who or what- Mick Jagger and Bette Middler.

B. Circle only the indirect objects in the following sentences.

1. He gave **me** excellent directions (D.O.) to the stadium. (He gave who or what (directions – that’s D.O.) to whom or for whom – me. (That’s I.O.)
2. We waited for him for two hours, (I.O. can’t be ‘him’ because it’s in a prep. phrase) but he never showed up. (There is no I.O.)
3. Yes, I told my **class** that stupid joke. (I told who or what (joke – that’s D.O.) to whom or for whom – class (that’s I.O.). Most of the students thought it was funny, but a few hated it.
4. The teacher brought the children and her colleagues little gifts for their birthday. (teacher brought who or what (gifts – that’s D.O.) to whom or for whom – children and colleagues (that’s I.O.).
5. I wish he and Marty would be more patient. When they argue, they give me a headache. (they give who or what (headache – that’s D.O.) to whom or for whom – me (that’s I.O.).

C. Circle the predicate nominatives and predicate adjectives in the following sentences.

1. He understands how to listen and answer questions. Therefore, *he* is an excellent **teacher**. (First sentence has action verb-‘understands’ so it can’t have PN. Second sentence has No action verb ‘is’ and teacher renames ‘he’ so teacher is a PN.)
2. I have been a teacher, a minor league baseball player, and a magazine editor. (sentence has no action verb-‘have been’ so it can have PN. Teacher, player, and editor rename ‘I’ so Teacher, player, and editor are PN’s.)
3. Those students have terrific study habits. It is a pleasure to have them in class. (None)
4. This test seems really **difficult**. I feel very **unsure** of myself. I wish I had studied more. (None) (‘difficult’ is a PA for test) (‘unsure’ is a PA for I)
5. I dress conservatively, but I am a very liberal thinker. Actually, I’m quite **radical**. (‘am’ is a no action verb so you can have PN. ‘I’ and ‘thinker’ are same thing so ‘thinker’ is a PN. ‘Radical’ is a PA for I)

D. Label the direct objects (DO), indirect objects (IO), predicate adjectives (PA) and predicate nominatives (PN) in the following sentences. (Hint: You should have only twelve words marked.)

1. I don’t understand the **concepts** (DO) in this class. I am totally **frustrated** (PA). I don’t understand who or what – ‘concepts’ (DO). ‘Frustrated’ describes subject (I) in predicate, so it’s a PA)
2. The interviewer mispronounced the actor’s **name**. He corrected the **error** and apologized. That was a **nice** gesture (interviewer mispronounced who or what – ‘name’ (DO). He corrected who or what - ‘error’ (DO). ‘Nice’ describes subject (that) in predicate, so it’s a PA) The actor was not **upset**. (‘Upset’ describes subject (actor) in predicate, so it’s a PA In fact, he handed the **interviewer** an autographed **photo**. (He handed who or what (photo – that’s D.O.) to whom or for whom – ‘interviewer’. (That’s I.O.)

3. She felt the patient's **pulse**. It felt very **weak** and **erratic**. She called the **doctor** to give a report.
(she felt who or what – 'pulse' (DO). 'weak' and 'erratic' describe subject 'It' in predicate so they are PA's) (She called who or what – doctor (DO).