

Indirect Objects

- 13c.** An *indirect object* is a noun, pronoun, or word group that sometimes appears in sentences containing direct objects.

An indirect object tells *to whom* or *to what* or *for whom* or *for what* the action of the verb is done.

EXAMPLES Aunt Aretha bought **herself** a terrarium. [Note: *Terrarium* is the direct object.]

Later she gave **Theo** and **me** the terrarium. [compound indirect object]

An indirect object is never part of a prepositional phrase.

EXAMPLE Later she gave the terrarium to **Theo** and **me**. [objects of the preposition *to*]

EXERCISE In each of the following sentences, underline the indirect object. If a sentence does not have an indirect object, write *None* after it.

Example 1. In 1993, the Swedish Academy gave Toni Morrison the Nobel Prize for Literature.

- Iola sent her brother a gift certificate for his birthday.
- Miriam, Judy, and Roberto taught themselves three-part harmony.
- Tell me the answer.
- Ms. Ankers found her glasses on the floor under her bed.
- The tall man gave us directions to the film festival.
- Gregory bought himself a burrito for lunch.
- At the American Museum of Natural History, Mr. Hsing showed James the hall of dinosaurs.
- Kendall offered Jason his congratulations for winning the bicycle race.
- At the wedding reception Chang sang Meg and Gordon their favorite song.
- What gave you the idea for your story?
- Mr. Linson took us on a field trip to the art museum.
- After pondering the problem for a long time, Dean revealed his solution to us.
- Very carefully, Annie offered the stray cat a piece of tuna fish.
- The coach gave Vic, Bob, and Dan their varsity sweaters.
- Carter returned the broken CD player to the manufacturer.
- Our neighborhood grocery store provided the food for our annual charity picnic.
- When you come back to the table, please bring me the mustard.
- Jed told the class a story about his trip to Vermont.
- The company will give you whatever you need to finish the job.
- The little girl's story won the hearts of the nation.