

Topic: Subject and Object of a Sentence

Subject

The subjects are typically **persons, animals, or things** (concrete or abstract). The subject of a sentence carries out the action that the **verb** in the sentence indicates or expresses. Thus, it shows **who** or **what** is doing something.

A subject can be a person.

Examples are given below.

1. **Oliver** closed his eyes.

Here, the subject is **Oliver**.

2. **Handel and Shannon** are going to the party.

Here, the subjects are “**Handel**” and “**Shannon**”.

A subject can also be a thing.

For example, “**The boat** moves”.

Here, the subject is “**the boat**”.

To figure out who or what is the subject, first find the verb of the sentence. Then ask yourself who or what is doing that action.

Example 1: Melisa took a shower.

Here, the verb is “took”.

Now ask yourself, who or what took the shower? In this case, it is a person referred to by the subject “**Melisa**”. So, **Melisa** is the **subject**.

Example 2: He ate all the cake.

Here, the verb is “ate”.

Now ask yourself **who is doing the action** or simply who ate all the cake? In this case, it is a person referred to by the subject pronoun “**he**”. So, **he** is the **subject**.

More examples of subjects are:

1. **A bird** ate all the tomatoes.
2. **The boy and his dog** ventured across the open field.
3. **A man with his child** tried to survive the winter.
4. **My best friend Alicia** won the award in the talent show.
5. **The longest and scariest ride** at the park was the raptor ride.

Object of a Sentence

Direct Object: A direct object is a noun or pronoun that follows an action verb. The object receives the action of the verb.

A direct object can be found by asking who or what about an action verb. For example,

Kathy kicked **the ball**,

“Kathy” is the subject.

“Kicked” is the verb.

"The verb's direct object is "ball" because the ball was kicked.

You can ask, “What did Kathy kick? The answer is, “the ball”. Therefore, the object of the sentence is **the ball**.

Indirect Object: An indirect object is the recipient of the direct object. Not all sentences have indirect objects.

If the sentence has an indirect object, it will always come between the verb and the direct object. If there is information after the direct object about who received it, that is most likely a prepositional phrase (Jeff threw the ball to Mark.). A prepositional phrase cannot be an indirect object.

To find an indirect object:

1. Find the subject.
2. Find the verb. Ask, “Is it an action verb”?
3. If it is an action verb, ask "Who or what receives the action of the verb?" Now, you have found the direct object.
4. Now, ask "to whom or for whom"? If the sentence tells you the answer to this question, you have found an indirect object.

Here is an example.

Andy brought **Mary** a flower.

“Andy” is the subject

“Brought” is the action verb.

“Flower” is the direct object.

Now ask, “For whom was the flower brought?” The answer is, “**Mary**”. Therefore, “**Mary**” is the **indirect object**.

Below are some additional examples of sentences with **indirect objects**.

- 1) Dad made Will a sandwich. (For whom was the sandwich made?) Will
- 2) Mrs. Peterson assigned the class 10 math problems. (To whom were the math problems assigned?) the class
- 3) Phillip gave the dog a bone. (To whom was a bone given?) the dog
- 4) Mom read Katie a book. (To whom was the book read?) Katie
- 5) Ian bought Sarah a flower. (For whom was the flower bought?) Sarah
- 6) Nana gave Tim a bath. (To whom was a bath given?) Tim

- 7) Mrs. Thorn made Beverly a cake. (For whom was a cake made?) Beverly
- 8) Eli poured Mary some water. (For whom was the water poured?) Mary