

Direct and Indirect Object Exercise

Instructions

Decide if the word in capitals is a direct object, indirect object, or neither (i.e. no direct or indirect object)

1. The teacher passed **THE STUDENT** a pen.

- Direct Object
- Indirect Object
- Neither

2. He gave John **THE OPPORTUNITY** to apply for the job.

- Direct Object
- Indirect Object
- Neither

3. John seems **ANNOYED**.

- Direct Object
- Indirect Object
- Neither

4. Ian built Anne a nice **HOUSE** in the village.

- Direct Object
- Indirect Object
- Neither

5. The students arrived at **THE HALLS OF RESIDENCE** in Cambridge.

- Direct Object
- Indirect Object
- Neither

6. Mike gave **HIS BROTHER** a bike.

- Direct Object
- Indirect Object
- Neither

7. Shall I read THE CHILDREN a story tonight?

- Direct Object
- Indirect Object
- Neither

8. The students returned to UNIVERSITY after the summer break.

- Direct Object
- Indirect Object
- Neither

9. I drove THE CAR.

- Direct Object
- Indirect Object
- Neither

10. His dad offered HIM his expensive watch for his 40th birthday.

- Direct Object
- Indirect Object
- Neither

Answers and Explanations:

1. The teacher passed **THE STUDENT** a pen.

- Indirect Object: *The student is the recipient of the direct object (the pen), and so is the indirect object of the sentence.*

2. He gave John **THE OPPORTUNITY** to apply for the job.

- Direct Object: *This answers the question 'gave what'? - The opportunity. So it's the direct object.*

3. John seems **ANNOYED**.

- Neither: *'Seems' is an intransitive verb so it cannot have an object. 'Annoyed' is an adjective, not a noun or a noun phrase to which the subject (John) performs an action.*

4. Ian built Anne a nice **HOUSE** in the village.

- Direct Object: *Ian built what? A house - so this is the direct object. The recipient of the house is Anne (the indirect object).*

5. The students arrived at **THE HALLS OF RESIDENCE** in Cambridge.

- Neither: *Though there is a noun (halls of residence), 'arrived' is an intransitive verb. 'At the halls of residence' is a prepositional phrase, not an object.*

6. Mike gave **HIS BROTHER** a bike.

- Indirect Object: *The recipient of the bike is his brother.*

7. Shall I read **THE CHILDREN** a story tonight?

- Indirect Object: *"The children" is the indirect object. They are the recipients of the direct object, "a story."*

8. The students returned to **UNIVERSITY** after the summer break.

- Neither: *'Return' can be transitive or intransitive, but in this case it is intransitive. It's also followed by two prepositional phrases (to university' and 'after the summer break'). So there are no direct or indirect objects.*

9. I drove THE CAR.

- Direct Object: *There is only one noun (car) so there can't be an indirect object (remember if a sentence has an indirect object, it must also have a direct object). The direct object (car) is the receiver of the action and it answers the question "I drove what?".*

10. His dad offered HIM his expensive watch for his 40th birthday.

- Indirect Object: *His dad offered what? A watch. Who received it? Him.*

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