

Passing the Puck: Direct Objects and Indirect Objects

A direct object is a noun or pronoun that receives the action of a verb. Put another way, the verb acts upon the direct object. Some sentences also have an indirect object. An indirect receives the direct object.



Example 1: Jack passed Sam the puck.

In the example, *puck* is the direct object; it is the noun that is receiving the action of the verb *passed*. The indirect object is *Sam*, who in this example is receiving the direct object *puck*.

There cannot be an indirect object without a direct object.

Example 2: Jack passed Sam.

In this example, the meaning of the sentence has changed. *Sam* is not an indirect object, but has become a direct object.

Many times the indirect object can be changed to be the object of a preposition in a prepositional phrase.

Example 3: Jack passed the puck to Sam.

As in Example 1, *puck* is the direct object. There is no indirect object, as *Sam* is now a part of a prepositional phrase beginning with the preposition *to*.

Read each of the sentences below. Underline the direct object in each sentence. If there is an indirect object, circle it.

1. The coach gave the team a pep talk.
2. Clair scored the winning goal.
3. The stick hit Zach on the leg.
4. Dad bought Jack new skates.
5. Mother handed me a drink.
6. The goalie pushed Colson's arm.
7. The official awarded Cozmo a penalty shot.
8. After the game the players shook hands.

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