

53 Verb patterns with objects

Some verbs, known as transitive verbs, have objects. When these verbs are followed by infinitives or gerunds, the object must come between the verb and the infinitive or gerund.

See also:

Types of verbs 49

Infinitives and participles 51

53.1 VERB WITH OBJECT AND INFINITIVE

Some verbs that are followed by an infinitive must also have an object before that infinitive.

VERB + OBJECT + INFINITIVE

My computer **allows me to work** on two screens at once.



HOW TO FORM

SUBJECT

My computer

VERB

allows

OBJECT

me

INFINITIVE

to work

REST OF SENTENCE

on two screens.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

Emma's brother **wants her to turn** down the television.



Giorgio **bought a new suit to wear** to his brother's wedding.



The building manager **will tell you to leave** the building if there's a fire.



Helena's mother **is always reminding her to do** the dishes.



Jonathan's teacher **expects him to do** better next time.



I've **asked my boyfriend to buy** some bread and milk on his way home.



! COMMON MISTAKES VERB PATTERNS WITH "WANT"

When the verb "want" is followed by an object and an infinitive, it is not formed with a "that" clause.



I want him to come to the exhibit with me. ✓

I want that he comes to the exhibit with me. ✗

"Want" should be followed by an object and infinitive.

"Want" can't be followed by a "that" clause.

53.2 VERB + OBJECT + GERUND PATTERNS

Some verbs that are followed by a gerund must also have an object before that gerund.

VERB + OBJECT + GERUND

Hayley heard the boss interviewing the new secretary.



HOW TO FORM

SUBJECT

VERB

OBJECT

GERUND

REST OF SENTENCE

Hayley

heard

the boss

interviewing

the new secretary.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

I remember Arnold leaving the house at around 10 o'clock.



Jeremy spends every winter snowboarding in the Alps.



I really don't like anyone talking to me while I'm trying to study.

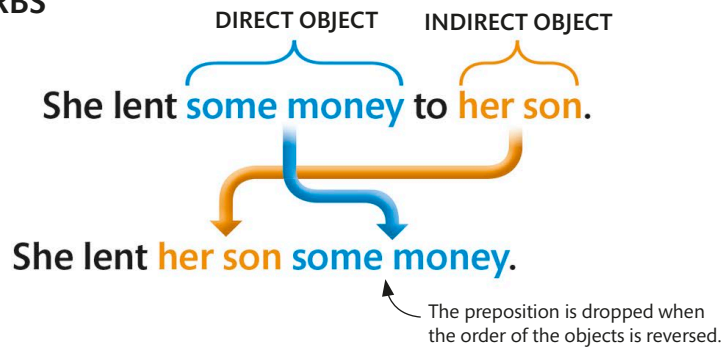


My sister loves science. I can see her becoming a doctor one day.



53.3 DOUBLE OBJECT VERBS

The direct object is the person or thing that an action happens to. The indirect object receives the same action. If the indirect object is the focus of the sentence, it comes after the direct object plus "to" or "for."



FURTHER EXAMPLES



Carolina sold { **her house** to **her younger brother**.
her younger brother **her house**.



Federico bought { **a car** for **his parents**.
his parents **a car**.

53.4 USING DOUBLE OBJECT VERBS WITH PRONOUNS

If the direct object is a pronoun, it must come before the indirect object.

She lent **it** to **her son**. ✓

She lent **her son** **it**. ✗

If the indirect object is a pronoun, it can come before or after the direct object.

She lent **some money** to **him**. ✓

She lent **him** **some money**. ✓

FURTHER EXAMPLES



Carolina sold { **it** to **her younger brother**.
it to **him**.
him **her house**.



Federico bought { **it** for **his parents**.
it for **them**.
them **a car**.