

Complements and objects

We need in fact to distinguish two types of object and two types of complement in the sentences so far illustrated:

Object: direct O_d and indirect O_i

Complement: subject C_s and object C_o

The direct object is illustrated in John carefully searched the room (O_d)

He had given the girl an apple (O_i)

The direct object must always be present if there is an indirect object in the sentence:

He had given *the girl* (O_i) an apple (O_d)

The indirect object almost always precedes the direct object; it is a noun referring to a person, and the - semantic relationship is often to use the term 'recipient'.

Turning to complements, we may illustrate first the subject complement:

The girl is now *a student* (C_s) at a large university.

His brother grew *happier* (C_s) gradually.

Here the complements have a straightforward relation to the subjects of their respective sentences. The 'object complement' can be explained as having a similar relation to a direct object as the subject complement has to a subject:

They make him *the chairman* (C_o) every year.

That is to say, the direct object and object complement in this example, 'him the chairman', correspond to the subject and subject complement in

He is the chairman (C_s).

Indicate, by O_d , O_i , C_s or C_o whether the parts underlined in the sentences below are the *direct object* (O_d), the *indirect object* (O_i), the *subject complement* (C_s) or the *object complement* (C_o):

- 1 Will someone get a doctor, quickly!
- 2 George and Paul both became famous doctors.
- 3 Do you call yourself a doctor?
- 4 May I call you Jenny?
- 5 May I call you a taxi or something?
- 6 Call me anything you like.
- 7 It's so cold. I can't get warm.
- 8 I can't get my hands warm.
- 9 Keep quiet. Keep those children quiet.
- 10 Can't you give them something to keep them quiet?
- 11 The young man was slowly going mad.
- 12 His mother-in-law was driving him mad.
- 13 The driver turned the corner too quickly.
- 14 The weather is turning warmer.
- 15 The hot weather turned all the milk sour.
- 16 The young man grew very depressed.
- 17 He grew his hair long.
- 18 He had made a great mistake.
- 19 His in-laws had simply made him their servant.
- 20 His wife sometimes made him curry.
- 21 But this only made him more miserable.
- 22 Show me your passport. Show me.
- 23 Did you see anyone? Did you say anything?
- 24 I didn't tell anybody anything.