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KINDS OF OBJECTS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The object is a secondary part of the sentence and one of the five elements in the structure of the clause. It is usually introduced by noun phrases or a pronoun in the objective case, any group of words that functions as a noun can also be an object. For example, noun clauses, gerunds and infinitives. The object is used to complete or restrict the meaning of verbs, prepositions, nouns, sometimes adjectives or words denoting state [3, p. 294; 4, p. 843].

The object can be expressed by different parts of speech: a noun in the common case, a pronoun, a substantivized adjective or participle, a numeral, an infinitive, an infinitive phrase, or an infinitive construction, a gerund, a gerundial phrase, or a gerundial construction, any part of speech used as a quotation, a prepositional phrase with a noun or a gerund, a group of words which is one part of the sentence, i.e. a syntactically indivisible group [3, p. 294–296].

There are four kinds of objects [1, p. 291]:

1. Direct: *They sent a telegram.*
2. Indirect:
 - a) Prepositional: *She helped him with his English.*
 - b) Non-prepositional: *She gave me a book.*
3. Complex: *I want him to come to me.*
4. Cognate: *She lived a happy life.*

The direct object is a noun phrase or clause which is licensed by a transitive verb and normally occurs after the verb, typically carrying the semantic role of patient. The direct object of a sentence is receiving the action. If the part of the sentence answers that question: ‘what?’ and ‘whom?’, it is the direct object [4, p. 844].

Direct objects are commonly used after some verbs. Those are called transitive verbs (*e.g. to buy, to carry, to find, to help, to like, to lose, to read, to pull, to push, to sell, to speak, to write, to understand*).

There are also some verbs which can have two direct objects (*e.g. to ask, to answer, to take, to envy, to hear, to forgive*) [1, p. 292].

The indirect object is the person or thing which receives indirectly the actions described by the verbs. The indirect object appears directly between the verb (it is used with transitive verbs) and its direct object. When the indirect object must be placed after the direct object, it is used with the prepositions *to* or *for* thus turning into a prepositional object. The indirect object can be found by answering the question: “‘Who or what is receiving the direct object?’” [4, p. 844].

e.g. “Please pass me the salt.” (The pronoun ‘me’ is receiving the direct object ‘the salt’, which receives the action of the verb ‘pass’).

There are two types of indirect object [1, p. 293-294; 3, p. 296-299]:

1. The first type expresses the addressee of the action:
 - a) It is never used without the direct object. It is used with transitive verbs which take a direct object.
e.g. She gave him (indirect object) a book (direct object) to read.

We can't say: *She gave him, or To whom did you give?*

- b) If the indirect object is a noun, it is in the common case; if it is a pronoun, it is in the objective case.
 - c) The indirect object has a fixed place that was mentioned earlier.
 - d) The indirect object may follow the direct object and it will turn into the prepositional object.

2. The second type is a prepositional object that follows both transitive and intransitive verbs and completes their meaning. This type does not always express the addressee of the action.

e.g. My childhood was passed with a grandmother.

The complex object consists of two components, of which the second stands in predicate relation to the first. These components must be regarded as one part of the sentence. The complex object may be both non-prepositional and prepositional.

The first part of the complex object can be a noun in the common case or in the possessive case, a personal pronoun in the objective case, or a possessive pronoun. The second part can be an infinitive, a participle and a gerund or it may seldom be a noun or an adjective, referring to the first part as a predicative (Objective predicative), a word denoting state, or a prepositional phrase [1, p. 294; 3, p. 299].

e.g. He hated her to work in the boarding house.

They elected him chairman of the meeting.

The cognate object is a special kind of object and can be characterized in the following ways:

a) It is used with intransitive verbs and has no preposition.
b) It is expressed with a noun, which has the same root as the verb or is similar in meaning.

c) It is normally used with an attribute with which it forms the combination that is close in meaning to an adverbial modifier:

to live a happy life = to live happily

There is a list of verbs that most frequently take a cognate object: *to live (a life), to smile (a smile), to laugh (a laugh), to die (a death), to sigh (a sigh), to sleep (a sleep), to dream (a dream), to run (a race), to fight (a fight, a battle), to go (a walk)* [3, p. 300; 1, p. 295].

e.g. Sing me a song.

Tell them the tale.

The prepositional object is an object expressed by a nominal phrase preceded by a preposition which serves as part of the complementation of the prepositional verb or an adjective with a “fixed” preposition. The prepositional object can refer not only to the verb, but also to the adjective or gerund [2, p. 359]:

We have just read about it.

He was afraid of dogs.

Our main task now is raising of living standard.

In English grammar, an object as a secondary part of the sentence is usually a noun, a noun phrase, or a pronoun that is affected by the action of a verb. An object can be characterized as the component of the sentence that completes or restricts the meaning of a verb, an adjective, a word denoting state or a noun. There are direct objects, indirect objects, cognate objects and complex objects in the English language.

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