





## What are double-object verbs?

Double-object verbs are verbs that take two objects: *a direct and an indirect object without a preposition*. Normally, the indirect object is a person or group of people, and the direct object is a thing or things. **They follow this structure:**

subject	verb	indirect object	direct object
I	gave	my sister	the book.

Verbs that are not double-object verbs must follow this structure:

subject	verb	direct object	preposition	indirect object
She	explained	this	to	me

### COMMON VERBS THAT TAKE DOUBLE OBJECTS

Here are some verbs that can be followed by two objects:

give	send	pass	throw
show	teach	tell	write
sell	lend	want	owe
bring	get	ask	find
make	cook	build	cost

### EXAMPLES

I'll show **you the way**.

They sold **us their old car**.

Can you teach **me a new song**?



## COMMON VERBS THAT DON'T TAKE DOUBLE OBJECTS

Not all verbs can be followed by two objects. The structure is not possible with the following verbs:

recommend	suggest	say
explain	describe	push
borrow	take	donate

## EXAMPLES

Can you recommend **a good book (to me)**?

~~Can you recommend me a good book.~~

He said **something to me**.

~~He said me something.~~

Please explain **this to me**.

~~Please explain me this.~~



## Practice

### EXERCISE 1

Change the structure in bold as in the example below.

**Example:**

*I gave **some flowers to my mother.***

*I gave **my mother some flowers.***

1. He built a **house for his parents.**
2. I'll send **the report to you** tomorrow.
3. Let me make **some tea for you.**
4. He wants to sell **his old car to me.**
5. Could you bring **some water to me?**
6. Should we cook **dinner for them?**
7. Throw **the ball to me.**

### EXERCISE 2

Reorganize the words to form sentences:

**Example:**

*we/them/money/owe/a lot of.*

*We owe them a lot of money.*

1. cost/a lot/the repair/me.
2. get/did/you/a drink/me?
3. you/me/teach/a new song/can?
4. pass/the salt/me.
5. I/him/asked/to get/my coat/me.
6. they/the instructor/a question/asked.
7. wrote/he/me/a poem.



### EXERCISE 3

Mark each sentence right or wrong. Correct the mistakes if there are any.

1. He said me something.
2. Can you find me a job?
3. They owe the bank a lot of money.
4. Can you recommend me a movie?
5. We showed them our new house.
6. I told him to describe me the situation.
7. She had to explain them the problem.

### EXERCISE 4

Write seven sentences with two objects.

Begin the sentences with: *I would like to give/send...*, using verbs from the box:

give	send	lend	show
tell	sell	get	build
make	find	owe	ask

**Examples:**

*I would like to give my friend a gift.*

*I would like to tell you a story.*

### EXERCISE 5

Write seven sentences with the verbs from the box.

recommend	suggest	borrow	explain
describe	donate	take	say



## Answer Key

### EXERCISE 1

1. He built **his parents a house**.
2. I'll send **you the report** tomorrow.
3. Let me make **you some tea**.
4. He wants to sell **me his old car**.
5. Could you bring **me some water**?
6. Should we cook **them dinner**?
7. Throw **me the ball**.

### EXERCISE 2

1. The repair cost me a lot.
2. Did you get me a drink?
3. Can you teach me a new song?
4. Pass me the salt.
5. I asked him to get me my coat.
6. They asked the instructor a question.
7. He wrote me a poem.

### EXERCISE 3

1. Wrong. *Correction: He said something to me.*
2. Right.
3. Right.
4. Wrong. *Correction: Can you recommend a movie to me?*
5. Right.
6. Wrong. *Correction: I told him to describe the situation to me.*
7. Wrong. *Correction: She had to explain the problem to them.*