A2 ENGLISH

Verbs with two objects

Who gets what?

Giving, sending, making and doing things for people

LEARN

A present for a friend

Look at the two sentences. What changes?

Mia gave Leo a notebook.

Mia gave a notebook to Leo.

Who gets something? What does he get?

LEARN

The person and the thing

Mia gave Leo a notebook.

What did Mia give? A notebook = direct object

Who received it? Leo = indirect object

In this lesson, think: person + thing.

LEARN

Pattern 1: person first

subject + verb + person + thing

Ella sent her cousin a photo.

We made our neighbours a cake.

With this word order, leave out to and for.

LEARN

Pattern 2: thing first

subject + verb + thing + to / for + person

Ella sent a photo to her cousin.

We made a cake for our neighbours.

The verb helps you choose to or for.

LEARN

Verbs commonly used with to

give, lend, offer, pass, promise

read, sell, send, show, tell, write

Please lend your charger to Ben.

I read a story to my little sister.

She showed her drawing to the class.

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Verbs commonly used with for

buy, cook, find, get, make

I bought a scarf for my aunt.

He cooked lunch for his friends.

Can you find a seat for me?

They got some tickets for us.

LEARN

To or for with bring?

Both are possible. The meaning changes slightly.

Bring the documents to Sara.

Bring a snack for Sara.

To: delivery to Sara. For: something for her to have.

LEARN

Person pronouns

me, you, him, her, it, us, them

Please show me your painting.

They bought us some sandwiches.

A person pronoun often goes straight after the verb.

LEARN

When the thing is it or them

Use: verb + it / them + to / for + person

The keys? Please give them to me.

That sandwich? I made it for you.

For practice, use “give it to me” and “make it for her”.

LEARN

Questions and negatives

The order of the objects stays the same.

Did you send Ana the address?

I didn’t send the address to Ana.

Can you make me a coffee? / I can’t make you one.

LEARN

A useful limit

Some verbs need a different pattern.

Explain the exercise to me.

Say hello to your teacher.

Tell your teacher the answer.

Learn each verb with its usual pattern.

WRITTEN + SPOKEN PRACTICE

Practice time

Who? What? To or for?

Work alone first. Compare with a partner.
Explain your choices using the patterns.

PRACTICE

1. The person and the thing

Find both objects in each sentence.

a. Our teacher gave the class a puzzle.

b. Nina bought her dad a jacket.

c. I sent my friend a voice message.

d. The waiter brought us some water.

PRACTICE

2. To or for?

Complete each sentence with to or for.

a. We sent a thank-you card ___ our hosts.

b. Jamie made a playlist ___ his sister.

c. Can you lend your pen ___ me?

d. I bought a ticket ___ my cousin.

e. Please show the photo ___ your partner.

PRACTICE

3. Which sentence works?

Choose A or B in each pair.

a. A: Give to me a minute. / B: Give me a minute.

b. A: She bought him a hat. / B: She bought a hat to him.

c. A: Send it to us. / B: Send us it.

d. A: I cooked for them dinner. / B: I cooked them dinner.

PRACTICE

4. A different word order

Rewrite with the THING first. Use to or for.

a. The hotel offered us a free breakfast.

b. I made my brother a sandwich.

c. Ruby showed her friends the video.

d. He bought his daughter a bicycle.

PRACTICE

5. The person comes first

Rewrite with the PERSON first.

a. Please pass the menu to me.

b. Mum read a story to the children.

c. I found a quiet table for us.

d. The shop sold a camera to my uncle.

PRACTICE

6. Correct or already correct?

Correct the mistakes. Two sentences are already correct.

a. She sent to me an invitation.

b. Can you buy a drink for him?

c. Please explain me the question.

d. We made them a pizza.

e. I gave a lift for my neighbour.

PRACTICE

7. Pronoun challenge

Replace the words in brackets with pronouns.

a. Give (the bag) to (Luca).

b. I made (the soup) for (my parents).

c. Please send (the photos) to (Ella and me).

d. Show (the message) to (your sister).

SPEAKING

8. A surprise party

In pairs, plan a party for a friend.

What will you buy or make for them?

Who will you send an invitation to?

Who can lend you something for the party?

Make six sentences. Use both word orders.

SPEAKING

9. Everyday favours

Take turns asking for help. Your partner answers.

At a café: ask your partner to pass you something.

At home: ask someone to make something for you.

At school: ask someone to lend you something.

Follow up: “What is it?” Then answer with it or them.

10. Your own sentences

Write four true or imaginary sentences.

a. A present someone gave you

b. Something you bought or made for someone

c. Something you sent to a friend

d. A favour you want to ask for today

Choose two sentences and change the object order.

Answer key

Check together

Explain the pattern, then try the sentence again.

Answers 1–2

1a. Person: the class. Thing: a puzzle.

1b. Person: her dad. Thing: a jacket.

1c. Person: my friend. Thing: a voice message.

1d. Person: us. Thing: some water.

2. a to b for c to d for e to

Answers 3–4

3. a B b A c A d B

4a. The hotel offered a free breakfast to us.

4b. I made a sandwich for my brother.

4c. Ruby showed the video to her friends.

4d. He bought a bicycle for his daughter.

Answers 5–6

5a. Please pass me the menu.

5b. Mum read the children a story.

5c. I found us a quiet table.

5d. The shop sold my uncle a camera.

6. b and d are correct. Corrections on the next slide.

Answers 6–7

6a. She sent me an invitation.

6c. Please explain the question to me.

6e. I gave a lift to my neighbour.

7a. Give it to him. 7b. I made it for them.

7c. Please send them to us.

7d. Show it to her.

Possible answers 8–10

8. We’ll buy Jo a present. We’ll make a cake for her.

9. Can you pass me the menu? Sure. I’ll pass it to you.

10a. My cousin gave me a mug.

10b. I made dinner for my flatmate.

10c. I sent a photo to my mum.

10d. Could you lend me a pen?