

Lesson 7: Direct Objects

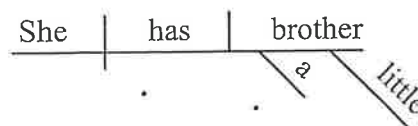
A noun or pronoun that receives the action of the verb directly is called a direct object. Asking *whom?* or *what?* (not *to whom?*) immediately after a non-linking verb will help you find the direct object if there is one. Take the sentence *The Johnsons have a parrot*. Ask: The Johnsons have *what?* The answer, of course, is *a parrot*. *Parrot* is the direct object.

Action Verb

Let's try another one: *Amy likes her new neighbors*. Ask: Amy likes *whom?* The answer is *her new neighbors*. *Neighbors* is the direct object.

Not all non-linking verbs have direct objects. For example, the sentence *He is running to the store* contains the non-linking verb *is running*; however, you get no answer when you ask *He is running whom?* or *He is running what?* Therefore, the sentence has no direct object.

In a sentence diagram, a direct object is preceded by a vertical line that stands on the horizontal line. The sentences *He likes Amy* and *She has a little brother*, in which *Amy* and *brother* are direct objects, are diagrammed like this:



Now it's your turn to diagram direct objects. Be careful! Several sentences in this lesson have predicate nominatives, not direct objects.

1. Our new principal drinks hot chocolate.
2. My friends have visited many great places.
3. She will be the new counselor.
4. The old church should have a taller steeple.
5. His favorite movie is *Nemo*.
6. The children spotted an unusual bird.
7. Her brother had a sore throat.
8. Their daughters had become prominent chemists.
9. The inexperienced pilot made a smooth landing.

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the | new

8. Their daughters had become prominent chemists.

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their | prominent

4. The old church should have a taller steeple.

church | should have | steeple
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pilot | made | landing
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