

### Ditransitive verbs

Ditransitive verbs take **two** Objects: a **Direct Object (DO)**, and an **Indirect Object (IO)**.

Direct Object (DO)	Indirect Object (IO)
A Direct Object (DO) is one that “experiences” the action carried out by the Subject.	An Indirect Object (IO) is the “recipient” or “beneficiary” of the DO.

Sentences with ditransitive verbs can be constructed in **two ways**:

#### #1 DOUBLE-OBJECT CONSTRUCTION: [Subj] + [V] + [IO] + [DO]

Example: [Danny] [asks] [Haziq] [a question].

#### #2: DATIVE SHIFT:[Subj] + [V] + [DO] + *to/for* + [IO]

Example: [Danny] [asks] [a question] *to* [Haziq].

Note that in a dative shift, the IO “shifts” to the right of the DO. When this happens, a preposition (i.e., *to* or *for*) precedes the IO.

The two sentence constructions described above are typically interchangeable. Many ditransitive verbs allow for either construction. Several of these verbs and sample sentences are illustrated below:

		Sentence structure	
		[Subj] + [V] + [IO] + [DO]	[Subj] + [V] + [DO] + <i>to/for</i> + [IO]
Verb	<b>ask</b>	[Danny] [asks] [Haziq] [a question].	[Danny] [asks] [a question] <i>to</i> [Haziq].
	<b>assign</b>	[The boss] [assigns] [him] [the paperwork].	[The boss] [assigns] [the paperwork] <i>to</i> [him].
	<b>cause</b>	[The earthquake] [caused] [the building] [severe damage].	[The earthquake] [caused] [severe damage] <i>to</i> [the building].
	<b>donate</b>	[Mrs. Yacob] [donated] [the library] [books].	[Mrs. Yacob] [donated] [books] <i>to</i> [the library].
	<b>give</b>	[Suresh] [gave] [Marek] [apples].	[Suresh] [gave] [apples] <i>to</i> [Marek].
	<b>lose</b>	*[Team A] [lost] [Team B] [the championship].	[Team A] [lost] [the championship] <i>to</i> [Team B].
	<b>offer</b>	[The authorities] [offered] [the informant] [a lot of money].	[The authorities] [offered] [a lot of money] <i>to</i> [the informant].
	<b>send</b>	[Michelle] [sends] [her parents] [money].	[Michelle] [sends] [money] <i>to</i> [her parents].
	<b>tell</b>	[Nicky] [told] [Alesso] [a secret].	[Nicky] [told] [a secret] <i>to</i> [Alesso].
<b>throw</b>	[The country club] [threw] [their VIP members] [a surprise party].	[The country club] [threw] [a surprise party] <i>for</i> [their VIP members].	

There are, however, ditransitive verbs that **do not allow** for both sentence constructions. Several of these verbs and their sample sentences are shown below. Ungrammatical sentences are indicated by the **asterisk (\*)** sign.

		Sentence structure	
		[Subj] + [V] + [IO] + [DO]	[Subj] + [V] + [DO] + <i>to/for</i> + [IO]
Verb	<b>cost</b>	[His incompetence] [cost] [him] [the job].	*[His incompetence] [cost] [the job] <i>to/for</i> [him].
	<b>lose</b>	*[Team A] [lost] [Team B] [the championship].	[Team A] [lost] [the championship] <i>to</i> [Team B].

Based on the above two examples, it is not always possible to switch from the DOC to the dative shift, vice-versa. For instance, the verb **cost** only allows a DOC, while the verb **lose** requires the IO to be shifted to the right of the DO.