

74 Verbs with two objects



We had a lot of heavy rain this year so we bought the children some rubber boots.



1 Person + thing

Some verbs can have two objects; one is usually a person and the other is usually a thing. Some verbs with two objects are: *bring, buy, give, make, lend, offer, pay, send, show, teach, tell, throw, write*.

We usually put the person object first:

SUBJECT	VERB	OBJECT (person)	OBJECT (thing)
We	bought	the children / them	some boots.
Harry	sent	Sally / her	some flowers.
Lianne	showed	Mike / him	her new laptop.
Jasmine	didn't tell	the students / them	a story.

! We don't use *for* or *to* when the person object comes first:

- X ~~Harry sent to Sally / her some flowers.~~
- ✓ Harry sent Sally / her some flowers.

2 Thing + person

We can also put the 'thing' object first. Then we need to use *for* or *to*:

SUBJECT	VERB	OBJECT (thing)	PREPOSITION + OBJECT (person)
We	bought	some boots	for the children / for them.
Harry	sent	some flowers	to Sally / to her.
Lianne	showed	her new laptop	to Mike / to him.
Jasmine	didn't tell	a story	to the students / to them.

We use *to* after most of the verbs in the list above, but we use *for* after *buy* and *make*.

! For some verbs (e.g. *explain, describe* and *translate*) we always put the 'thing' object first:

- X ~~The teacher explained me the grammar.~~
- ✓ The teacher explained the grammar to me.