INDIRECT OBJECTS

The indirect object is located after the action verb and before the direct object. It is always a noun or a pronoun. The indirect object tells to whom the action is done. Look at the following example:

Example: The scientists gave the students a lecture concerning Aquarius, the new habitat.

In the sentence above, you would ask of the verb *Who gave?* The answer is the subject *scientists*. The next question is *Scientists gave what?* The answer is the direct object, *lecture*. To find the indirect object, you ask, *Scientists gave lecture to whom?* The answer is the indirect object, *students*. One way to check the indirect object is to see if you can place a preposition before it: Scientists gave *to* the students a lecture. The example sentence can be diagrammed as follows:

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scientists | gave    | lecture
     |    |    
     |    |   
     |    |    
     |    | students
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Sometimes the *to* that is understood for the indirect object is written on the slanted line under the verb in parentheses like this: *(to)*. See #1 in the exercise below for an example.
Exercise 4: Diagramming Subjects, Verbs, Direct Objects, and Indirect Objects

*The Aquarius*

**Directions:** In the following sentences, label the functions of the words in the sentence as follows: subject (S), verb (V), indirect object (IO), and direct object (DO). Diagram each of these words by placing them on the diagram frames provided. The first sentence has been done for you.

1. The scientists gave the audience a slide tour of the underwater habitat named Aquarius.

   Scientists  gave  tour
   (to)
   audience

2. The slides showed the audience several divers approaching the underwater facility.

3. Florida Bay gives many fish species a refuge.
4. The bay’s shallow bottom brought Florida’s freshwater crocodile safety.

5. The Florida crocodile’s teeth earned it a ferocious reputation.

6. The project costs the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) a lot of money.

7. Oceanographic engineers give the submarine, equipped with a camera and sonar, a good workout.
8. Everyone in the audience gave the scientists a round of applause.

Adapted from: http://www.jason.org/expeditions/jason7/overview.html.