Sentence Pattern Two: Subject–Verb–Direct Object (S-V-DO)

Sentence Pattern Two includes a subject plus an action verb plus a direct object. In this pattern, the subject acts upon the direct object, or, to say it another way, the direct object is the noun or the pronoun that receives the action of the verb. The examples that follow will make this relationship clear. In the examples, the subject is in boldface, the verb is underlined once, and the direct object is underlined twice.

Example: In bed with rheumatic fever, thirteen-year-old **Bobby Bowden** used his **imagination**.

Example: He also heard the **radio** from his sick bed.

Example: The **broadcasts** of Alabama football games eased the **loneliness** of his year-long ordeal.

Example: **Bowden** formed **pictures** of football plays touchdowns.

Example: Later, **he accepted** the Florida State University coaching **position**.


In each of the examples, you can find the direct object by asking a series of questions. In the first example, you ask, *Bowden* (the subject) *used* (the verb)
what? The answer is *imagination* (direct object). All the other examples follow the same format. In the second example, you ask, *He heard what?* The answer is *radio*, which is the direct object. In the third example, the direct object is *loneliness*; in the fourth example, the direct object is *pictures*; and in the last example, the direct object is *position*. Remember that the direct object comes after the verb. Diagramming of the direct object will also show you the structure of this sentence pattern. The first two examples are diagrammed for you.

**Example:** In bed with rheumatic fever, thirteen-year-old **Bobby Bowden** used his **imagination**.

**Diagram:**

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Bobby Bowden       used       imagination
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**Example:** He also heard the **radio** from his sick bed.

**Diagram:**

```
He       heard       radio
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In both of these diagrams, the subject is separated from the verb by a vertical line that intersects the horizontal line. A vertical line also separates the verb
from the direct object, but it doesn’t intersect the horizontal line. See if you can find the direct objects in the next exercise.