Verbs that take an object are called **transitive verbs**.

I bought a pair of trousers.

Here the noun phrase ‘a pair of trousers’ acts as the object of the verb ‘bought’. Therefore, ‘bought’ is used as a transitive verb in this sentence.

Most transitive verbs are followed by a single object. Some transitive verbs, on the other hand, take two objects after them. Some common verbs that take two objects are: **give, tell, offer, make, ask, promise, lend, sell, owe and buy**.

She gave me a book.
She bought him a shirt.
I told her a story.
Will you do me a favor?
Can you lend me some money?
You owe me a drink.

The object that immediately follows the verb is called the **indirect object**. The indirect object usually denotes a person. The direct object usually comes after the indirect object.

It is possible to put the direct object before the indirect object. In this case, we use the preposition **to** or **for** before the indirect object.

She gave a **book to me**.
I told a **story to her**.
She bought a **shirt for him**.
Will you do a **favour for me**?

Notes: The direct object cannot be put before the indirect object in the following cases.

Ask him his number. (BUT NOT Ask his number to him.)
I envy you your new car. (BUT NOT I envy your new car to you.)