

The background features a large, faint watermark of the University of Basrah logo. The logo is circular and contains a palm tree in the center, an open book at the base, and the year '1975' on both sides. The text 'UNIVERSITY OF BASRAH' and 'COLLEGE OF EDUCATION FOR HUMAN SCIENCES' is written around the bottom edge, while Arabic text is at the top.

**English Grammar**  
**Fourth Year**  
**2021-2022**

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# **Week 2: The Simple Sentence**

## **Lecture No. 5:**

### **Semantic Roles of Clause Elements:**

- Semantic Roles of the Direct Object**
- Semantic Roles of the Indirect Object**

# Semantic Roles of the Direct Object 1

- The most typical function of the direct object is that of the **AFFECTED** participant; i.e. a participant (animate or inanimate) which does not cause the happening denoted by the verb, but is directly involved in some other way:
- He sold *his digital camera*.

# Semantic Roles of the Direct Object 2

- The direct object may have a **LOCATIVE** role with such verbs as *walk, swim, pass, jump, turn, leave, reach, surround, cross, climb*:
- We walked *the streets*. ['We walked *through* the streets.']
- She swam *the river*. ['She swam *across* the river.']
- He passed *a cyclist*. ['He passed *by* a cyclist.']
- The horse jumped *the fence*. ['The horse jumped *over* the fence.']

Superficially, these objects may seem to be adverbials with an omitted preposition. In most cases their status as objects is clear, however, from their ability to assume subject role in a corresponding passive clause, *e.g.: The fence was jumped by the horse.*

# Semantic Roles of the Direct Object 3

**A RESULTANT/EFFECTED** object is an object whose referent exists only by virtue of the activity indicated by the verb:

- Baird invented **television**.
- They are designing **a new car**.
- John has painted **a new picture**.
- She made **a fire**.
- I'm writing **a letter**.
- I baked **a cake**

# Affected VS Effected Objects

With an agentive subject and an affected object, one may always capture part of the meaning of a clause (*e.g.*: ***X destroyed Y***) by saying 'X did something to Y'; but this does not apply to a resultant/effected object: ***Baird invented television*** does not imply 'Baird did something to television'. *The affected object simply refers to something that already exists whereas the resultant /effected object refers to something that comes to existence by virtue of the activity indicated by the verb.* Contrast the affected object in ***I'm digging the ground*** with the resultant object in ***I'm digging a hole.***

# Cognate object

**A COGNATE** object is similar to a resultant object in that it refers to an event indicated by the verb; in other words it repeats, partially or wholly, the meaning of the verb:

- Chris will sing **a song** for us.
- She lived **a good life**.
- They fought **a clean fight**.
- He breathed **his last breath**.
- He died a **miserable death**.

## Phrases of Extent or Measure as Objects

When used as objects, phrases of extent or measure result in a kind of difficulty in analyzing them. As the examples given below do not generally permit the passive transformation there is a reason to analyze them as SVA rather than SVO. However, the final element behaves at least marginally like a direct object, as is shown by the question forms *What* alongside *How much*:

- He ran a mile.
- It costs ten dollars.                      How much does it cost?
- It weighs almost a ton.                      What does it weigh?



# Eventive Object

An **EVENTIVE** object takes the form of a deverbal noun, that is, a noun that is derived from a verb or verb phrase, but that behaves grammatically purely as a noun, not as a verb, preceded by a common verb of general meaning, such as ***do, give, make, have and take***. This **EVENTIVE** object is semantically an extension of the verb and bears the major part of the meaning. Compare:

- They are arguing. [V Only]
- They ***are having an argument***. [V + Eventive O]
- They progressed well.      - They ***made good progress***.

# Semantic Roles of the Indirect Object 1

The most typical role of the indirect object is that of the **RECIPIENT**; i.e. an animate participant being passively implicated by the happening or state:

- I found **you** a place.
- She sent **me** a bouquet of flowers.
- The indirect object occasionally takes an **AFFECTED** role with a few of the verbs that combine with an eventive object. The most common verb in the latter construction is **give**:

## Semantic Roles of the Indirect Object 2

- She gave *me* a push. ['She pushed me.']
- I gave *Helen* a nudge. ['I nudged Helen.']
- We gave *the baby* a bath. ['We bathed the baby.']
- I should give *the car* a wash. ['I should wash the car.']
- Give *the car* a push. ['Push the car.']
- Judith paid *me* a visit. ['Judith visited me.']
- Derek owes *us* a treat. ['It's Derek's turn to treat us.']

The indirect object has the same role as the affected direct object in the paraphrases.