

Sentence Structure

a. Subject + Verb

A sentence can consist simply of a subject (a noun or pronoun) and a verb.

Subject	Verb
Fernando	arrived.
Alex	left.

b. Subject + Verb + Direct Object

A sentence can consist of a subject, a verb and a direct object. The verb and the object are usually together. A direct object answers the question, what?

He had what? He had a letter.

Sarah wanted what? Sarah wanted ice cream.

Some verbs like have, are always followed by a direct object.

Subject	Verb	Direct Object
Francisca	threw	the ball.
David	liked	Maria.
He	had	a letter.
Sarah	wanted	ice cream.
He	had	a suitcase.

c. Subject + Verb + Indirect Object

Sentences can also have indirect objects. An indirect object answers the question to whom?

He wrote to whom?

He wrote a letter to David.

David gave the letter to whom?

David gave Francisca the letter.

If the indirect object appears **after** the direct object you must use to.

Subject	Verb	Direct Object	Indirect Object
He	wrote	a letter	to David.
He	gave	the suitcase	to his brother.

If the indirect object appears **after** the verb but **before** the direct object, you do not use to.

Subject	Verb	Indirect Object	Direct Object
David	gave	Francisca	the letter.
He	gave	his brother	the suitcase.
He	gave	him	the suitcase.