

11-3 INDIRECT OBJECTS AS PASSIVE SUBJECTS

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|------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | I.O. | D.O. |
| (a) Someone gave | Mrs. Lee | an award. |
| (b) Mrs. Lee was given | an award. | |
| | D.O. | I.O. |
| (c) Someone gave | an award | to Mrs. Lee. |
| (d) An award was given | to Mrs. Lee. | |

I.O. = indirect object; D.O. = direct object

Either an indirect object or a direct object may become the subject of a passive sentence.

(a), (b), (c), and (d) have the same meaning.

Notice in (d): When the direct object becomes the subject, *to* is usually kept in front of the indirect object.*

*The omission of *to* is more common in British English than American English: *An award was given Mrs. Lee.*

Exercise 55 Indirect objects as passive subjects. (Chart 11-3)

Directions: Find the indirect object in each sentence and make it the focus of attention by using it as the subject of a passive sentence. Use the *by*-phrase only if necessary.

- Someone handed Ann a menu at the restaurant.
(indirect object = Ann) → Ann was handed a menu at the restaurant.
- Indiana University has awarded Peggy a scholarship.
- Some company paid Fred three hundred dollars in consulting fees for a job he did last week.
- Someone has given Maria a promotion at her job as a computer programmer at Microsoft.
- They will send you a bill at the end of the month.
- Someone will give the starving people a week's supply of rice as soon as the food supplies arrive in the famine-stricken area.

Exercise 56

Indirect objects as passive subjects.

Directions: Identify the indirect object (I.O.). Change the sentences to the passive by using the *indirect object* as the subject of the sentence. Use the "*by phrase*" only if necessary. Keep the same tense.

- Someone is going to serve Jack breakfast in bed on his birthday.
→ Jack is going to be served breakfast in bed on his birthday.
- Someone has offered Mike the opportunity to study abroad.
- People don't pay babysitters a lot of money.
- When I was living in Kuwait, my neighbor taught me Arabic.
- Someone awarded Jason a medal for distinguished service in the military.
- The real estate office will send you a copy of the sales contract.
- Someone handed me a telegram when I answered the door.
- The director of the museum, Ms. Cynthia Hall, is going to give the schoolchildren a special tour of the modern art exhibit.
- People gave Mr. French a gold watch upon his retirement from the company.

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