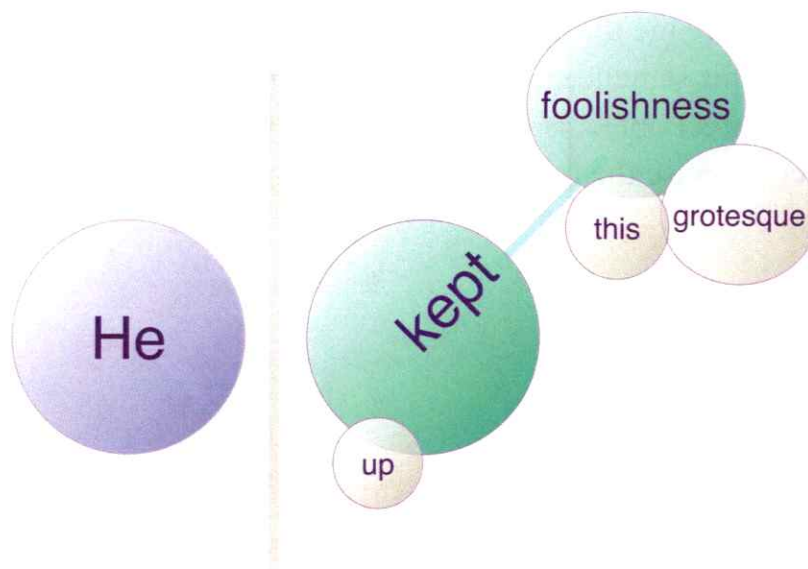
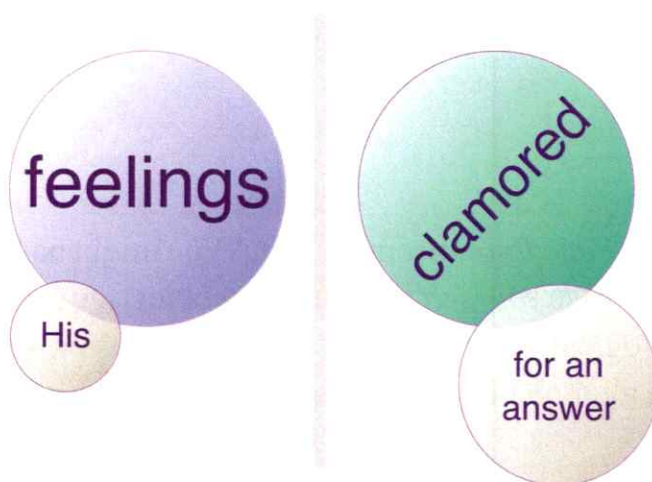


Here is the same basic structure but in a sentence written by Mark Twain in *Tom Sawyer*. The sentence is “He kept up this grotesque foolishness.” This sentence uses the same structure: a subject, an action verb, and a direct object. The foolishness gets kept. This is a standard structure: subject, action verb predicate, and direct object: subj. - AVP - D.O.

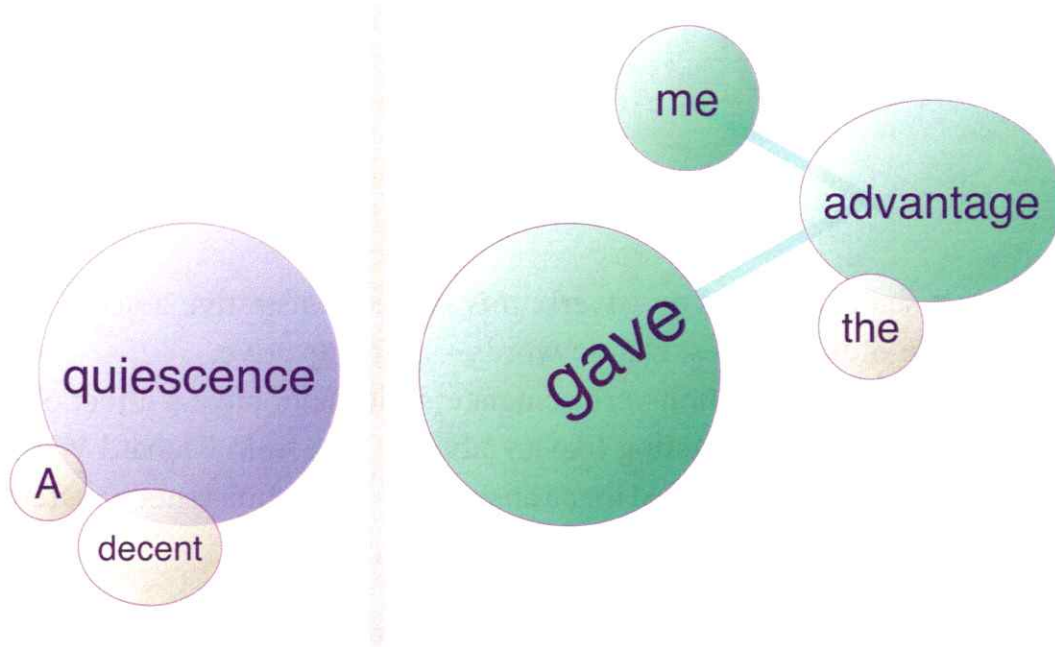


In Twain’s sentence, *up* is an adverb, *this* is a demonstrative adjective, and *grotesque*—one of the greatest classic words—is an adjective.

Here is an intransitive action verb sentence; it does not have a direct object. It has a prepositional phrase acting like an adverb. It is from Richard Wright’s *Native Son*: “His feelings clamored for an answer....” The action is not transferred.



In addition to the direct object, there is another structure that can follow from an action verb: the *indirect object*. An indirect object is a noun or pronoun that is located between the action verb and the direct object and that is indirectly affected by the action. A direct object is required; there cannot be an indirect object if there is not a direct object. Here is a sentence from Charlotte Brontë's novel *Jane Eyre*; the complete sentence is "A decent quiescence, under the freak of manner, gave me the advantage." If we drop out the two prepositional phrases, we have this sentence, in which *me* is an indirect object. Notice that in this t-model, the direct object is in an oval, rather than a circle, which is merely for convenience because the noun *advantage* is so long.



In another sentence in *Jane Eyre*, Brontë wrote, "You might have spared yourself the trouble...." In that case *yourself* is the indirect object, and *trouble* is the direct object. It follows logically that indirect objects are less common than direct objects because not all direct objects have indirect objects with them.