

In H.G. Wells's classic novel *The Invisible Man*, we read that “Hall tried to convey everything by grimaces and dumb show.” In this case the infinitive phrase acts as the direct object. We could make a model of the sentence like this, omitting a few words for simplicity's sake:



But we could also do a three-level analysis:

Hall	tried	to	convey	everything	by	grimaces....
n.	v.	-----n.-----		pron.	prep.	n.
subj.	AVP	-----D.O.-----				
		-----infinitive phrase-----		-----prep. phrase-----		

Because the prepositional phrase modifies the infinitive phrase—attaches to it—we could say that the prepositional phrase is within the infinitive phrase and is part of the direct object. The full sentence has a compound object of preposition: “grimaces and dumb show.” The term *dumbshow*—usually a single word—refers to silent gestures.