



If we let AVP stand for action verb predicate and D.O. stand for direct object, we can analyze a sentence this way, showing both Level One and Level Two:

1. **In the morning Euclid drew a hexagon in the sand.**

prep. adj. n. n. v. adj. n. prep. adj. n.

subj. AVP D.O.

Notice that the subject, the proper noun *Euclid*, is acting, drawing a hexagon. So the noun *hexagon* is the direct object because it gets drawn. When a noun or pronoun gets—let us say—*verbed*, it is a direct object. Notice also that *sand* is not a direct object; it cannot be; it is only the object of a preposition and cannot do double duty.

2. **Alexander greeted Sisygambis and her without diffidence.**

n. v. n. conj. pron. prep. n.

subj. AVP -----D.O.-----

Here we see a **compound direct object**, *Sisygambis and her*, which receives the action of the active voice transitive action verb *greeted*. *Alexander*, the subject, does the greeting, and this energy transits through the verb to the direct object, the two people who get greeted. Note that an object pronoun, *her*, is used for the direct object. Diffidence is the opposite of confidence. Sisygambis was the mother of Darius, Alexander the Great's opponent.

3. **With serenity, Polonius ate a whole plate of fried drumsticks.**

prep. n. n. v. adj. adj. n. prep. adj. n.

subj. AVP D.O.

Polonius was a tedious fool in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Here, we may have modernized his diet, for no such meal occurs in the play. Note that it is the noun *plate* that is the direct object; the object of preposition is not eligible to be a direct object.



From Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings's *The Yearling*:

	The	sand	burned	his	bare	calloused	soles.
Parts of Speech	adj.	n.	v.	adj.	adj.	adj.	n.
Parts of Sentence	subj.		AVP				D.O.
Phrases	no phrases						
Clauses	-----independent clause----- a simple declarative sentence						

This sentence from Rawlings's *The Yearling* shows the power that a writer can bring to a sentence. The active voice transitive action verb *burned* carries the voltage, and Rawlings supports that energy with hard consonants in *saND*, *BurNeD*, *Bare*, and *calLOuseD*. Notice the resonance of *BURned BARE*, *saND burNeD*, and *calLOUS SOLES*. The sentence is even stronger because the direct object is the final syllable, and it is a stressed syllable: *soles*.

Verbisection:

Regular or irregular: regular
 Action, linking, or being: action
 Tense: past
 Person: third
 Number: singular
 Mood: indicative
 Transitive or intransitive: transitive
 Voice: active

trans