



From William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, act III, scene i:

	I	never	gave	you	aught.
Parts of Speech	pron.	adv.	v.	pron.	pron.
Parts of Sentence	subj.		AVP	I.O.	D.O.
Phrases	no phrases				
Clauses	-----independent clause----- a simple declarative sentence				

Aught is an archaic, Old English pronoun that means *anything*; Hamlet is saying, *I never gave you anything*. The verb is irregular; in the past tense we do not say *gived*. Notice the indirect object *you*, an object pronoun, exactly where it should be: between the transitive action verb and the direct object. You can have a direct object without an indirect object, but you cannot have an indirect object without a direct object: *I never gave you....*

Verbisection:

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



Let us look at some more sentences that have **indirect objects**.

1. **With a doleful cry, Lear tearfully asked Regan the question.**

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

subj. AVP I.O. D.O.

Remember that you must have a direct object if you have an indirect object. In this sentence, if the words *the question* were omitted from the sentence, then *Regan* would be the direct object.

2. **Cordelia gave you and me an impassive glance in the hall.**

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

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

Indirect objects are easy to find because we always know where to find them—**between** the AVP and the D.O. In this sentence *you and me* is a compound indirect object; it cannot be *you and I* because objects cannot be made of subject pronouns. Notice that *hall* cannot be a direct object because it is the object of a preposition. If a word is the object of a preposition, then that is all it can be.

3. **In a mortifying gesture, Goneril secretly gave Regan the poisoned cup.**

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

subj. AVP I.O. D.O.

You begin to realize that this is a ^{*}standard pattern, a common pattern, a pattern that you see hundreds of times every day. So many subjects have action verbs, action verbs so often transfer the energy to a direct object, and there is often an indirect object between the verb and the direct object.