

Language Generator 7—Помогать (To Help)

Use this universal language generator to say who helps whom to do what. The verb *помогать* (to help) never has a direct object, only an indirect object. This indirect object should be in the dative case. (Some grammars state that its direct object should be in the dative case, but this is just a different perspective.)

The reason it does not take a direct object is that when you are helping someone your effort is not generally exerted on the person himself, it is exerted on his problem. The person you are helping is the indirect object in the same way he would be if you were giving him a pencil.

Subject and Verb	Indirect Object	Optional Verbal Phrase
Кто помога́ет Who helps	кому whom	написа́ть писа́ймо. to write a letter.
Я помога́ю I help	мне me	чита́ть стих. to read a verse.
Мы помога́ем We help	нам us	покра́сить сте́ну. to paint the wall.
Ты помога́ешь Thou helpst	тебе thee	откры́ть ба́нку. to open an can.
Вы помога́ете You help	вам us	найти́ отве́т. to find an answer.
Он/Она/Оно помога́ет He/She/It helps	ему him	гото́вить у́жин. to prepare dinner.
Они́ помога́ют They help	ей her	встать. to get up.
Ива́н помога́ет John helps	им them	прине́сти во́ду. to bring water.
А́нна помога́ет Anna helps	Ива́ну John	
	А́нне Anna	

As shown in the last column, a verb phrase may be added to specify the task with which help is needed. This phrase should be in the infinitive. (The verb should remain in dictionary form.)

There are other verbs which do not take direct objects. Some of the more commonly used ones are:

ве́рить	to believe
вреди́ть	to cause harm
зави́довать	to envy
меша́ть	to hinder
напомина́ть	to remind
повинова́ться	to obey, to subject oneself
позволя́ть	to allow
совета́вать	to advise, to offer counsel
служи́ть	to serve

In each of these cases if we look hard enough we can identify three sides to the action: the one who acts, the action taken, and the person affected by it. The person affected by it is considered the indirect object and is named in the dative case.