

Indirect Object with Verbs of Saying

A group of verbs, most of which come from Latin and refer to saying or speaking, use only the to-form of the indirect object.

For example:

The teacher **explained** the lesson to us. (~~NOT The teacher explained to us the lesson.~~)

address	leak
announce	mention
ascribe	propose
attribute	prove
commend	recommend
confess	refer
credit	relate
dedicate	relay
describe	repeat
dictate	report
disclose	reveal
divulge	say
explain	speak
express	suggest
impart	unburden
introduce	

Example sentences:

She **addressed** her remarks to the students.

He **attributed** his success to hard work.

They **broke** the news to the press on Monday morning.

We **commend** his soul to the deep.

He **confessed** his involvement in the crime to the police.

He **credited** his success to staying focused.

He **dedicated** his life to the search for knowledge.

She **described** the assailant to a police artist.

She **dictated** the book to an assistant.

Company representatives **disclosed** their plans to purchase a factory in Ohio.

He **divulged** his plans to a journalist.

He **explained** his motives to detectives, police said.

French President Jacques Chirac **expressed** his condolences to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

He **imparted** his knowledge to his students.

The first season of The X-Files **introduced** us to Agents Scully and Mulder.

They **leaked** the report to the media.

She **mentioned** the restaurant to her students.

The committee **proposed** the new policy to the Board of Directors.

Velikovsky unsuccessfully **tried** to prove his thesis to the academic community.

Captain Pasley **recommended** the young man to Captain Bligh in 1791.

His doctor **referred** him to a specialist.

He **related** the story to me over dinner one evening.

The spy **relayed** the information to his superiors.

He **repeated** the story to his friends at work.

They never **reported** the incident to the police.

He **revealed** his secret to his friend.

You should have **said** something to her.

The look on her face **spoke** volumes to me.

Someone **suggested** the idea to a professor at Berkeley.

She **unburdened** herself to her best friend.