

Objects

An object is almost always accompanied by an "object marker". This marker is the word "را" which always comes right after the object word(s) in the sentence.

I read the book.	کتاب را خواندم.
They saw us.	ما را دیدند.
Ali gave me the key of his house.	علی کلید خانهاش را به من داد.
Sara and Zahra did (it. wrote) their homework.	سارا و زهرا تکلیفشان را نوشتند.

There are two places where there is an object in the sentence without an object marker. Understanding and mastering these two situations is one of the most complicated parts of Persian grammar.

1- Generic Nouns

When a noun refers to every member of a particular kind, group, species, etc, it is called a generic noun in that sentence. Generic nouns do not need object markers when they are used as objects. The word "sandwich" in the second sentence of the following examples is a generic noun. But it is a normal definite noun in the first sentence.

He only eats the sandwich (and not the salad).	فقط ساندویچ را می خورد.
He only eats sandwiches.	فقط ساندویچ می خورد.

However, when an adverbial clause comes between the generic noun and the verb of the sentence, the object marker should be used.

I always eat sandwiches using (my) hands (and not using a spoon).	من همیشه ساندویچ را با دست می خورم.
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2- Indefinite nouns

The object marker can be omitted when the object is indefinite.

Lale has long hairs.	لاله موهای بلندی دارد.
You have a nice blog.	وبلاگ خوبی داری.
She takes nice photos.	عکس‌های قشنگی می‌گیرد.
She gave the nice photos she took to me.	عکس‌های قشنگی را که گرفت به من داد.

In the last example, the object marker “را” is used. The reason is that as we explained in the previous lesson, the noun phrase is no longer considered indefinite when the word “که” is used after it to explain about it. It is definite and must therefore be accompanied by an object marker when taking the role of an object.

This is what one should know about definite and indefinite nouns and their usage:

Definite nouns: usually translated with “the”; without the suffix “ی” (unless followed by the word “که”); take the object marker when coming as an object

Indefinite nouns: usually translated with “a”, “an”, “some”, numbers or simply nothing; with the suffix “ی” or preceded by a number; usually without the object marker when coming as an object

Here are examples of different sentences with definite and indefinite objects:

They ate the ice-creams.	بستنی‌ها را خوردند.
He stole my money.	او پول من را دزدید.
I am familiar with Tehran.	من تهران را می‌شناسم.
We know everything.	ما همه چیز را می‌دانیم.
The president says strange things.	رئیس جمهور چیزهای عجیبی می‌گوید.
Do you have a pen?	خودکار داری؟
She always eats dinner alone.	همیشه تنها شام می‌خورد.
I read the book you bought.	کتابی را که خریدی خواندم.
They have a hard job.	آنها کار سختی دارند.

In the following examples, you can compare the two possible ways for using pronoun objects (Enclitic and free).

I know you.	تو را می‌شناسم.
I know you.	می‌شناسمت.
She took it.	آن را گرفت.
She took it.	گرفتش.
They see us.	ما را می‌بینند.
They see us.	می‌بینندمان.

As mentioned in the previous lessons, the third person singular free personal pronoun is "او" for humans and "آن" for non-humans. When enclitic pronouns are being used, the third person pronoun is "ش" anyway, for both humans and non-humans. Thus, another case where we might prefer to use free pronouns is when we want to distinguish between human and non-human objects.

Word Order

It is usually said that the order of words in Persian sentences usually follow the SOV order (Subject-Object-Verb) but that is not obligatory. There are quite a lot of cases where the SOV rule is not observed; an at hand example is the group of sentences with enclitic objective pronouns which were just mentioned in the last set of examples.