

Verb + object + complement

Some transitive verbs can be followed by an object together with an object complement which is usually an expression that gives more information about the object.

They elected him their leader. (Object – him; object complement – their leader)

You make me happy. (Object – me; object complement – happy)

I found her attitude disgusting. (Object – her attitude; object complement – disgusting)

After some verbs we use the structure 'object + as + complement'. Verbs that are usually followed by this structure are: *see, describe, regard, identify, consider* etc.

I see him as a nice person.

We considered the project as wasteful.

She described her lover as a tall, dark and handsome guy.

We regard him as a genius.

Sometimes we use as being instead of as.

The police regard him as being dangerous.

After some verbs we use an object + infinitive. In an informal style, we can use a that-clause.

We considered him to be a genius. (Formal)

We considered that he is a genius. (Informal)

We believed him to be reliable. (Formal)

We believed that he is reliable. (Informal)

Note that the verb think cannot be followed by an object + to-infinitive. Instead, we use a that-clause.

I thought that she was reliable. (NOT I thought her to be reliable.)