

# Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

What is a transitive verb?

A **transitive verb** is followed by a noun or noun phrase as a **direct object**.

Example:

The girl kicked the ball.

To figure out if a verb has a direct you must first identify the subject and verb of the sentence. The subject of the above sentence is **girl**, and the verb is **kicked**. What did the girl kick? She kicked the **ball**. That means the **ball** is the direct object, making **kicked** a **transitive verb** in this example.

What is an intransitive verb?

An **intransitive verb** is not followed by a direct object.

Example:

The baby cried.

In this example, the **baby** is the subject, and **cried** is the verb. This verb is **intransitive** because it does not need a direct object to make the sentence make sense.

However, not all verbs are strictly transitive or intransitive. Some verbs can be both transitive and intransitive, depending on the sentence.

Example:

A crowd of people **shouted** from across the street.

OR

A crowd of people **shouted** at me from across the street.

In both above sentences, **crowd** is the subject, and **shouted** is the verb. In the first sentence, shouted is being used as an intransitive verb because it doesn't have a direct object. The crowd isn't shouting isn't directed at a noun or noun phrase.

In the second sentence, the crowd is **shouting** at me. Here, **shouting** is being used as a **transitive verb**, because it is being used with a **direct object**.