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.