Transitive and Intransitive Verbs



Read these sentences.

Harry is reading from his book.

- ‘is reading’ = verb
- Who is reading? Harry = subject of the sentence
- What is he reading? book= object of the verb

Monica is writing an essay.

- ‘is writing’ = verb
- Who is writing? Monica = subject of the sentence
- What is she writing? essay = object of verb





REMEMBER

- A transitive verb is a verb that has an object.
- This property of a verb where it allows such passing through of an action from the subject to its object is transitivity.
- So, such verbs are called transitive verbs.



REMEMBER

- An object of a verb is the destination of a verb's action.
- We ask the question what or whom after the verb, and if there is an answer, the verb is transitive.
- We ask whether the action is done to someone or something. If there is an object (noun), it is a transitive verb.

Read these sentences



Today the sun is shining brightly.

- ‘is shining’ = verb
- What is shining? sun = subject
- What is the sun shining on? no answer = no object

The small baby is sleeping.

- ‘is sleeping’ = verb
- Who is sleeping? baby = subject
- What/ whom is sleeping? no answer = no object



REMEMBER

- An intransitive verb is a verb that does not take an object.
- Nothing or no one receives the action in the sentence, such a verb is called an intransitive verb.
- In other words, the action is not transiting from the subject to any object (noun) in the sentence.

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Here is a short list of common verbs of both types.

Transitive verbs	Intransitive verbs
play	walk
buy	jump
understand	stood
meet	wept
give	cries
catch	was singing
hear	burns



Underline the verb in each sentence, circle the object (if any) and state whether the verb in each sentence is transitive or intransitive.

1. We walk to the railway station.
2. Have you understood this lesson?
3. My friend stood quietly.
4. Who broke this jug?
5. The bell has rung.
6. Rajesh has lost his pen.