

Transitive Verbs

In the previous Lesson we were looking at Subjects and Objects, especially with regard to Relative Pronouns.

Now we are going to study Transitive Verbs, Verbs which have Direct Objects following them (the Receiver of the action that is being described)

Examples

SUBJECT	TRANSITIVE VERB	DIRECT OBJECT
we	speaks	English
Peter	writes	a letter
they	do not know	the truth
I	eat	my dinner
she	learns	her lesson

The Verbs are to speak, to write, to know, to eat; to learn, and all of them have *Direct Objects* (i.e. direct receivers of the action of the Verb). They are all Transitive Verbs.

Intransitive Verbs

We shall now look at intransitive Verbs (Verbs which are not followed by a *Direct Object*).

Examples

SUBJECT	VERB
they	are
I	go
Paul	comes
we	sleep
she	stays
you	wait
she	runs, walk

You will see it is not possible to follow any of the above verbs by an Object whether *Direct* or *Indirect*!

In the case of "they are" what follows is called a Complement (i.e. a part of the sentence that completes it...)

i.e. they are my friends; she is ten years old.

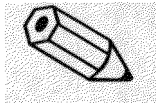
But for verbs like *to go*, you can only have some kind of phrase following: e.g. I am going to the cinema.



For more information on this, consult Longman's A-Z of English Grammar and Usage.

**Activity
3**

Complete these sentences with an appropriate *Transitive* or *Intransitive* Verb (say which it is):



- a) I am _____ to see my friends
- b) Elizabeth _____ the book to her teacher
- c) Who _____ you? My name is Steven.
- d) Last night I did not _____ very well
- e) The train _____ late far too often
- f) I _____ apples, and eat them as much as possible
- g) Has she her letter? I don't think so!

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