

THE WRITING CONNECTION TRANSITIVE AND INTRANSITIVE VERBS

Direct objects help verbs make a complete statement or a sentence. Verbs which have an object are called **TRANSITIVE VERBS**. The verbs in the following examples are considered transitive verbs:

The children found their mother ("founder" is the direct object of "found," a transitive verb.)
The singer ~~threw~~ the record ("threw" is the direct object of "threw," a transitive verb.)

Verbs that can express action without objects are called **INTRANSITIVE**. The verbs in the following sentences are considered intransitive verbs:

She ~~is~~. ("is" verb "is") does not have an object as it is intransitive.)
The horse ~~ran~~. ("ran" verb "ran") does not have an object as it is intransitive.)

Although a few verbs can be transitive only and some can be intransitive only, the verbs in most English sentences can be either one.

Use the verbs below as transitive in one sentence and intransitive in the next. (Remember, a transitive verb will have a direct object.)

Example sentences: "helped" as transitive - The teacher helped me. ("me" is the direct object.)
"helped" as intransitive - The teacher helped at lunch. (This verb has no object.)

1. **verb: "enjoyed"**
transitive: _____
intransitive: _____
2. **verb: "attended"**
transitive: _____
intransitive: _____
3. **verb: "sang"**
transitive: _____
intransitive: _____
4. **verb: "stopped"**
transitive: _____
intransitive: _____
5. **verb: "pulled out"**
transitive: _____
intransitive: _____