



Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

Depending on the type of object they take, verbs may be transitive or intransitive.

The meaning of a transitive verb is incomplete without a direct object, as in the following examples:

Incomplete	Complete
The chef <u>holds</u> .	The chef holds three books and a vase of flowers.
Uncle David <u>called</u> .	Uncle David called the student who might be the culprit.
The child <u>breaks</u> .	The child breaks his mother's vase.

An intransitive verb, on the other hand, cannot take a direct object:

The man has arrived on a deserted island.

The compound verb "has arrived" is intransitive and takes no direct object in this sentence. The prepositional phrase "on a deserted island" acts as an adverb describing where the man arrives.