ENGLISH GRAMMAR

Transitive & Intransitive VERBS

TRANSITIVE VERBS

NEED AN OBJECT

I **bought** *a car.*

transitive verb — direct object

You **buy** *something* (an object).

What did you buy? *A car.*

You cannot just say "I bought."
(incomplete - incorrect)

You need a direct object after a transitive verb. (In this case **buy**)

INTRANSITIVE VERBS

CANNOT HAVE AN OBJECT

The baby **smiled**.

intransitive verb

You cannot have an object after an intransitive verb.
(In this case **smile**)

You cannot "smile *something*"

Another example:

We waited but nobody came.

intransitive — intransitive

Verbs that are Transitive and Intransitive

Some verbs can be transitive in one sentence and intransitive in another.

I **stopped** *the car.*

transitive verb — direct object

The car **stopped**.

intransitive verb — there is no object

Sometimes the **meaning** of a verb **changes** depending on whether that verb is transitive or intransitive (especially with phrasal verbs).

He **runs** *a small grocery store.*
(transitive: **run** = manage)

He **runs** along the beach every morning.
(intransitive: **run** – the sport)

LIVEWORKSHEETS