

Transitive & Intransitive VERBS

TRANSITIVE VERBS

NEED AN OBJECT

I bought a car.

transitive direct
verb 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 direct
verb object

The car stopped.

intransitive there is
verb 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)