

What Are Transitive And Intransitive Verbs?

A **transitive** verb is one that is used with an [object](#): a [noun](#), [phrase](#), or [pronoun](#) that refers to the person or thing that is affected by the action of the verb. In the following sentences, *admire*, *maintain*, *face*, and *love* are transitive verbs:

*I **admire** your courage.*

*We need to **maintain** product quality.*

*I couldn't **face** him today.*

*She **loves** animals.*

Some transitive verbs can be used with a [direct object](#) and an [indirect object](#):

<i>Liz brought</i>	<i>her</i>	<i>a glass of water.</i>
	[indirect object]	[direct object]
<i>He sent</i>	<i>her</i>	<i>a letter.</i>
	[indirect object]	[direct object]

Here is a short list of some common verbs that can take a direct and indirect object:

Verb	Example
give	<i>Pat gave me a book for my birthday.</i>
buy	<i>Can I buy you a drink?</i>
pass	<i>Paul passed her a cup of coffee.</i>
make	<i>Shall I make us some lunch?</i>
sell	<i>Jenny was trying to sell me her car.</i>
take	<i>We took Maria some flowers and wine.</i>
show	<i>Show me your holiday photos.</i>
offer	<i>The company has offered me a job.</i>
leave	<i>Leave me a message and I'll get back to you.</i>
wish	<i>Everyone wished us all the best for the future.</i>
lend	<i>Could you lend me £20?</i>
cost	<i>Ben's mistake cost him his job.</i>

Intransitive verbs

An **intransitive** verb does not have an object. In the following sentences, *cry*, *work*, *laugh*, and *talk* are intransitive verbs:

*The baby **was crying**.*

*I **work** for a large firm in Paris.*

*They **laughed** uncontrollably.*

*We **talked** for hours.*

Transitive and intransitive verbs

Many verbs can be transitive or intransitive. For example:

*The choir **sang** carols. [transitive]*

*Pete always **sings** in the bath. [intransitive]*

*She **left** London on June 6. [transitive]*

*I want to **leave** early. [intransitive]*

Here is a short list of some common verbs that can be transitive or intransitive:

Verb	Transitive	Intransitive
move	<i>Could you move your car please?</i>	<i>The trees were moving in the breeze.</i>
start	<i>Taylor was found guilty of starting the fire.</i>	<i>The match starts at 3 p.m.</i>
change	<i>Marriage hasn't changed her.</i>	<i>The area's changed greatly in the last decade.</i>
close	<i>Close your eyes; I've got a surprise for you.</i>	<i>Most shops here close at 5.30 p.m.</i>
open	<i>Open the window; it's too hot in here!</i>	<i>The museum opens at 10 a.m.</i>
stop	<i>Greg tried to stop her from leaving.</i>	<i>When the rain stopped, we went for a walk.</i>
do	<i>Have you done your coursework?</i>	<i>Joe's doing well in his new job.</i>
set	<i>Kate set a chair next to the bed.</i>	<i>The sun was setting and a red glow filled the sky.</i>
run	<i>Michelle used to run a restaurant.</i>	<i>The path ran over the hill.</i>
live	<i>Our cat lived till he was 10.</i>	<i>He was living a life of luxury abroad.</i>
wash	<i>Have you washed your hands?</i>	<i>I washed, dressed, and went out.</i>
write	<i>Write your name here.</i>	<i>Kevin couldn't read or write.</i>

Adapted from: <https://www.lexico.com/en/grammar/transitive-and-intransitive-verbs>