

English Grammar: Transitive & Intransitive Verbs

1) **Transitive** verbs need a direct 'object'. Here are some examples:

- to buy **I bought a new car** last week. (object = a new car)
- to see Did **you see me** on TV yesterday? (object = me)
- to like **She likes chocolate.** (object = chocolate)
- to love **I love you.** (object = you)
- to need **I need a drink.** (object = a drink)
- to watch I never **watch TV.** (object = TV)
- to do **My wife is doing the dishes.** (object = the dishes)
- to make **He rarely makes his bed.** (object = his bed)

We don't need a preposition between the verb and the object. If you omit the 'object', then the phrase is not complete and sounds strange:

Incorrect

~~Do you need?~~

~~I will do.~~

~~I really should clean.~~

~~He loves.~~

Do you like pizza? ~~Yes, I like.~~

Correct

Do you need **something**?

I will do **my homework**.

I really should clean **my car**.

He loves **chess**.

Do you like pizza? Yes, I like **it**.

2) **Intransitive** verbs don't have an object. Here are some examples:

- to run When I feel stressed, I **run**.
- to collapse Yesterday, the building **collapsed**.
- to cry Please don't **cry**.
- to work I have **worked** for 40 years.
- to sleep My cat **sleeps** a lot.
- to laugh My dad always tries to make me **laugh**.

3) Sometimes, a verb can be both **transitive** and **intransitive**. Here are some examples:

- to study I love to study. / I want to study Japanese.
- to write Can you write? / I am going to write an essay about Brazil.
- to cook Can you cook? / She is cooking an omelet.
- to eat I love to eat. / Let's eat a pizza.

Here are some more examples of transitive and intransitive verbs:

Transitive

ask
build
bring
send
book
borrow

Intransitive

sit
swim
die

Both

read
eat
drink

Exercise. Tick if these verbs are transitive (T), intransitive (I) or both:

Verb	T	I
to learn		
to hit		
to look for		
to talk		
to sing		
to walk		
to hate		

Now create a sentence for each verb listed above. If the verb can be transitive and intransitive, create two sentences.
