

# Understanding the Parts of a Sentence

## English Parts of a Sentence

Subject | Predicate | Direct Object | Indirect Object  
Object of the Preposition | Transitive Verbs and  
Intransitive Verbs  
Linking Verbs | Complements | Exercises

# **Transitive Verbs and Intransitive Verbs**

Not every **verb** takes a **direct object**.

The direct object completes the meaning of the verb, but not every verb needs completion.

**For example:**

*I built last year.*

This sentence feels incomplete. Something is missing.

*What did I build?*

To complete the idea I should add a direct object: "I built a house last year."

Now the idea is complete.

## An opposite example:

*I ran yesterday.*

This sentence is completely fine just like that, right? The idea is complete, and the verb doesn't require a direct object.

# Definitions:

Verbs that take direct objects are called **transitive verbs**.

The meaning of a transitive verb is **incomplete** without a direct object.

"She is **drinking** a glass of water."



Verbs that don't take direct objects are called **intransitive verbs**.

The meaning of an intransitive verb is **complete** by its own.

"She is standing."



The word **transitive** comes from  
the Latin "to go across."

**Intransitive** means *not transitive*.

Examples of transitive verbs (the transitive verb is **green** and bold, the direct object is **red**):

Could you **bring** an umbrella?

They **bought** a yacht.

I **read** all his books.

He **teaches** driving.

You **promised** to take us home.

She **plays** the drums.



Examples of intransitive verbs (the intransitive verb is **green** and bold):

Let's **go**.

The kids **are jumping**.

Sam **is sleeping**.

We **will talk** tomorrow.

He **sits** here.

Her stomach **aches** sometimes after lunch.

Many English verbs can be used BOTH as transitive and intransitive verbs.

Now, what does that mean?

It means that you can use them with a direct object, or without, depending on the sentence.

**For example:**

We **won**!

We **won** the game!

Both of these sentences are correct. The verb "won" is intransitive in the first sentence, and transitive in the second one.

Some more examples (transitive verbs are **green**,  
intransitive verbs are **red**):

Nicole **opened** the door.

Suddenly, the doors **opened**.

Will you **help** us?

She never **helps** around the house.

Jimmy **runs** a successful company.

Jimmy **runs** very fast.

# Linking Verbs

A **linking verb** is a **verb** that **CONNECTS** the subject with an **adjective** or a **noun** that identifies or describes it.

"She **seems** very pleased."



# Examples of linking verbs:

Be

Become

Turn

## Example sentences:

*I am a singer.*

(**Am** connects the subject *I* with the noun *singer*.  
The noun *singer* tells the identity of the subject *I*.)

*He is Jack.*

(**Is** connects the subject *he* with the noun *Jack*.  
The noun *Jack* tells the identity of the subject *he*.)

*She became angry.*

(***Became*** connects the subject *she* with the adjective *angry*.)

The adjective *angry* describes the subject *she*.)

*Amy turned red.*

(***Turned*** connects the subject *Amy* with the adjective *red*.)

The adjective *red* describes the subject *Amy*.)



**Some more examples (the linking verb is in bold):**

I **am** Beth.

You **are** a teacher.

He **is** a good cook.

He **became** a successful businessman.

Lisa **seems** more tired than usual.

You don't **look** so surprised.

Dinner **smells** wonderful!

## Important:

Many linking verbs can also be used as **action verbs**.

### Examples:

*You look terrible.* (Look = linking verb)

*Look at me.* (Look = action verb)

*These cookies taste strange.* (Taste = linking verb)

*He will not taste the cake.* (Taste = action verb)

Now that you know about **transitive, intransitive, and linking verbs**, it is **time to practice!** Follow the links below and take the quizzes. **Send screenshots of your successful score of at least 70% to your respective TL's email.**

**Linking verbs:**

[http://www.proprofs.com/quiz-school/story.php?title=linking-verbs\\_2](http://www.proprofs.com/quiz-school/story.php?title=linking-verbs_2)

[http://www.myenglishpages.com/site\\_php\\_files/grammar-exercise-linking-verbs.php#.VJEi1clGRqE](http://www.myenglishpages.com/site_php_files/grammar-exercise-linking-verbs.php#.VJEi1clGRqE)

**Transitive / Intransitive verbs:**

<http://www.learnenglishfeelgood.com/transitive-intransitive-verbs1.html>

<http://www.learnenglishfeelgood.com/transitive-intransitive-verbs2.html>

<http://www.quia.com/quiz/653869.html>

# THE END!



Resource used for this material: [Really-Learn-English.com](http://Really-Learn-English.com). 2010-2014