

Verbs

Transitive and intransitive

- *He sighed.*
- *She cut her hand.*
- *The soup tastes salty.*

Each of these sentences has a subject (**he**, **she**, **the soup**) and a verb (**sigh**, **cut**, **taste**).

In the first sentence, **sigh** stands alone. Verbs like this are called **INTRANSITIVE**.

In the second sentence, **cut** is **TRANSITIVE** because it is used with an object (**her hand**).

In the third sentence, **taste** has no object but it cannot be used alone without an adjective. An adjective like **salty** that gives more information about the subject of a verb is called a **COMPLEMENT**. Verbs that take complements are called **LINKING VERBS**.

Verb codes

- In the dictionary, grammatical codes at the start of each meaning show you whether a verb is always transitive or always intransitive, or whether it can be sometimes transitive and sometimes intransitive.

The code **[I]** shows you that in this meaning **change** is always intransitive.

change ⓘ **A1** ⓘ /tʃeɪndʒ/ verb, noun

■ verb

• **BECOME/MAKE DIFFERENT** 1 ⓘ **A1** **[I]** to become different: Rick hasn't changed. He looks exactly the same as he did at school. ◊ changing attitudes towards education ◊ Things have **changed dramatically** since then. ⓘ see also **UNCHANGING** 2 ⓘ **A1** **[T]** ~sb/sth to make sb/sth different: Fame hasn't really changed him. ◊ That experience **changed my life**. 3 ⓘ **A1** **[I, T]** to pass from one state or form into another; to make sb/sth pass from one state or form into another: Wait for the traffic lights to change. ◊ ~from **A to** / **into B** The lights changed from red to green. ◊ ~to / **into sth** The lights changed to green. ◊ ~sb / **sth (from A) to** / **into B** With a wave of her magic wand, she changed the frog into a handsome prince.

The code **[T]** shows you that in this meaning **change** is always transitive.

The code **[I, T]** shows you that in this meaning **change** is sometimes intransitive and sometimes transitive.

Transitive verbs are the most common type of verb. A verb that is always transitive in all its meanings is just marked *verb*, and no other verb code is given.

Verb frames

- Transitive verbs can take different types of object—a noun, phrase or clause. Both transitive and intransitive verbs can combine with different prepositions or adverbs. Different linking verbs can take either adjectives or nouns as complements.

In the dictionary, the different patterns (or 'verb frames') in which a verb can be used are shown in **bold type**, usually just before an example showing that pattern in context.

provide ⓘ **A2** ⓘ /prə'vaɪd/ verb 1 ⓘ **A2** to give sth to sb or make it available for them to use **SYN** supply: ~sth Please **provide** the following information. ◊ The exhibition **provides an opportunity** for local artists to show their work. ◊ Please answer questions in the space provided. ◊ ~sth for sb We are here to **provide a service** for the public. ◊ ~sb with sth We are here to provide the public with a service ◊ ~sth to sb We **provide financial support** to low-income families. 2 ~that ... (formal) (of a law or rule) to state that sth will or must happen **SYN** stipulate: The final section **provides that** any work produced for the company is thereafter owned by the company. ⓘ see also **PROVISION** noun

If a particular verb, or one particular meaning of a verb, is always used in the same pattern, this pattern is shown in **bold type** before the definition.

Intransitive verbs [I]

- Intransitive verbs do not take an object. When they are used alone after a subject, there is no verb frame.

The example showing this use will usually appear first, before any other patterns and examples.

shiver /ʃɪvə(r)/ verb, noun

■ verb **[I]** (of a person) to shake slightly because you are cold, frightened, excited, etc: Don't stand outside shivering—come inside and get warm! ◊ He **shivered at** the thought of the cold, dark sea. ◊ ~with sth to shiver with cold/fear/excitement/pleasure

Some intransitive verbs are often used with a particular preposition or adverb. This pattern will be shown in **bold type**, usually before an example.

- Some intransitive verbs are always or usually used with a preposition or adverb, but not always the same one. These are often verbs showing movement in a particular direction:
 - *A runaway car **came hurtling towards** us.*
 - *A group of swans **floated by**.*

In the dictionary this use will be shown by the frame + **adv./prep.** If a preposition or adverb is often used, but not always, there will be brackets round the frame: (+ **adv./prep.**)

hurtle /'hɜːtl/; NAmE 'hɜːrtl/ verb **[I]** + **adv./prep.** to move very fast in a particular direction: A runaway car **came hurtling towards** us.

Transitive verbs [T]

- Transitive verbs must have an object. The object can be a noun or a pronoun, a noun phrase or a clause.

→ For information on verbs that take a clause as the object, see page R6.

The frames used to show a transitive verb with a noun, pronoun or noun phrase as object are ~ **sb**, ~ **sth** and ~ **sb/sth**.

ac.com.mo.date 1+ B2 /ə'kɒmədɪt; NAmE ə'kɑ:m-/ verb 1 1+ B2 [T] ~ sb to provide sb with a room or place to sleep, live or sit: *The hotel can accommodate up to 500 guests.* 2 1+ B2 [T] ~ sb/sth to provide enough space for sb/sth: *The garage can accommodate three cars.* 3 1+ C1 [T] ~ sth (formal) to consider sth such as sb's opinion or a fact and be influenced by it when you are deciding what to do or explaining sth: *Our proposal tries to accommodate the special needs of minority groups.* 4 [T] ~ sb (with sth) (formal) to help sb by doing what they want **SVT** oblige: *I have accommodated the press a great deal, giving numerous interviews.*

~ **sb** is used when the object is a person.

~ **sth** is used when the object is a thing.

~ **sb/sth** is used when the object can be a person or a thing.

As with intransitive verbs, some transitive verbs are often used with a preposition or an adverb.

If there is a wide range of possible prepositions or adverbs, a frame such as **sb/sth + adv./prep.** is used.

hack /hæk/ verb, noun

verb 1 [T, I] to hit and cut sb/sth in a rough, heavy way: ~ **sb/sth + adv./prep.** *I hacked the dead branches off.* ◊ *They were hacked to death as they tried to escape.* ◊ *We had to hack our way through the jungle.* ◊ + **adv./prep.** *We hacked away at the bushes.* 2 [T] ~ sb/sth + **adv./prep.** to kick sth roughly or without control: *He hacked the ball away.* 3 [I, T] (computing) to secretly find a way of looking at and/or changing information on sb else's computer system without permission: ~into sth *He hacked into the bank's computer.* ◊ ~sth *They had hacked secret data.*

If a particular preposition or adverb is used, then it is given in the frame.

Transitive verbs with two objects

- Some verbs, like **sell** and **buy**, can be used with two objects. This is shown by the frame ~ **sb sth**:

- I sold Jim a car.*
- I bought Mary a book.*

You can often express the same idea by using the verb as an ordinary transitive verb and adding a prepositional phrase starting with **to** or **for**:

- I sold a car to Jim.*
- I bought a book for Mary.*

These will be shown by the frames ~ **to sb** and ~ **for sb**.

bake 1 B1 /beɪk/ verb, noun

verb 1 1 B1 [T, I] to cook food in an oven without extra fat or liquid; to be cooked in this way: ~ (sth) *to bake bread/biscuits/cookies* ◊ *baked potatoes/apples* ◊ *the delicious smell of baking bread* ◊ *I've been baking all morning.* ◊ ~sth for sb *I'm baking a birthday cake for Alex.* ◊ ~sb sth *I'm baking Alex a cake.* ◊ **VISUAL VOCAB** pages V41, V42

A pair of examples, with different frames, shows the same idea expressed in two different ways.

Linking verbs

- His voice sounds hoarse.*
- Elena became a doctor.*

In these sentences, the linking verb (**sound**, **become**) is followed by a complement, an adjective (**hoarse**) or a noun phrase (**a doctor**) that tells you more about the subject.

Verbs that have an adjective as the complement have the frame + **adj.**, and verbs with a noun phrase as the complement have the frame + **noun**. Verbs that can take either an adjective or a noun phrase as the complement may have the frame + **adj./noun**, or the two frames may be shown separately with an example for each.

be.come 1 A1 6 /bi'kʌm/ verb (be.came /-ˈkeɪm/, be.come) 1 1 A1 linking verb to start to be sth: + **adj.** *It soon became apparent that no one was going to come.* ◊ *It is becoming increasingly clear that something has gone seriously wrong.* ◊ + **noun** *She became queen in 1952.* ◊ *The bill will become law next year.* ◊ *Over the last five years she has become part of the family.*

The linking verb **become** can be used with either an adjective or a noun phrase.

There are also verbs that take both an object and a complement:

- She considered herself lucky.*
- They elected him president.*

The complement (**lucky**, **president**) tells you more about the object (**herself**, **him**) of the verb. The frames for these verbs are ~ **sb/sth + adj.**, ~ **sb/sth + noun** or ~ **sb/sth + adj./noun**.

Verbs used with 'that clauses'

- The frame ~ **that...** shows that a verb is followed by a clause beginning with **that**:
• *She replied that she would prefer to walk.*

However, it is not always necessary to use the word **that** itself:

- I said that he would come.*
- I said he would come.*

These two sentences mean the same. In the dictionary they are shown by the frame ~ (**that**)... and a single example is given, using brackets:

- I said (that) he would come.*

Some verbs can be used with both a noun phrase and a 'that clause'. The frame for verbs used like this is ~ **sb that...** or ~ **sb (that)...**:

- Can you remind me that I need to buy some milk?*
- I told her (that) I would be late.*

Verbs used with 'wh- clauses'

- A 'wh-clause' (or phrase) is a clause or phrase beginning with one of the following words: **which, what, whose, why, where, when, who, whom, how, if, whether**:
 - *I wonder what the new job will be like.*
 - *He doesn't care how he looks.*
 - *Did you see which way they went?*

In the dictionary, verbs used like this have a frame such as ~ **how, what, etc ...** or ~ **why, where, etc ...**

The particular 'wh-words' given in each frame will be words that are typical for that verb, but the 'etc.' shows that other 'wh- clauses' are possible.

wonder ɪ ˈwʌndə(r) verb, noun

■ **verb** 1 ɪ ˈwʌndə(r) [T, I] to think about sth and try to decide what is true, what will happen, what you should do, etc: 'Why do you want to know?' 'No particular reason. I was just wondering.' ◇ ~ who, where, etc... I wonder who she is. ◇ I was just beginning to wonder where you were. ◇ You have to wonder just what he sees in her. ◇ I can't help wondering whether I'm missing something here. ◇ + **speech** 'Where's Natasha?' he wondered aloud. 2 ɪ ˈwʌndə(r) [T] ~ if, whether ... used as a polite way of asking a question or asking sb to do sth: I wonder if you can help me. ◇ I was wondering whether you'd like to come to a party.

If there is no 'etc.' in the frame, then this verb or meaning can only take the particular 'wh-words' that are listed.

Some verbs can be used with both a noun phrase and a 'wh-clause'. Verbs used like this have a frame such as ~ **sb where, when, etc ...**

- *I asked him where the library was.*
- *I told her when the baby was due.*
- *He teaches his students how to research a subject thoroughly.*

Verbs with infinitive phrases

- **Eat** and **to eat** are both the infinitive form of the verb. **Eat** is called a **BARE INFINITIVE** and **to eat** is called a **TO-INFINITIVE**. Most verbs that take an infinitive are used with the to-infinitive. The frame for these verbs is ~ **to do sth**:

- *The goldfish need to be fed.*
- *She never learned to read.*

Some verbs can be used with both a noun phrase and a to-infinitive. The frame for these is ~ **sb to do sth**, ~ **sth to do sth** or ~ **sb/sth to do sth**. The noun phrase can be the object of the main verb:

- *Can you persuade Sheila to chair the meeting?*

or the noun phrase and the infinitive phrase together can be the object:

- *I expected her to pass her driving test first time.*
- *We'd love you to come and visit us.*

Only two groups of verbs are used with a bare infinitive (without **to**). One is the group of **MODAL VERBS** (OR **MODAL AUXILIARIES**). These are the special verbs like **can, must** and **will** that go before a main verb and show that an action is possible, necessary, etc. These verbs have special treatment in the dictionary and are labelled *modal verb*.

A small group of ordinary verbs, for example **see** and **hear**, can be used with a noun phrase and a bare infinitive. The frame for these is

~ **sb do sth**, ~ **sth do sth** or ~ **sb/sth do sth**:

- *She watched him eat his lunch.*
- *Did you hear the phone ring just then?*

Verbs with '-ing phrases'

- An '-ing phrase' is a phrase containing a **PRESENT PARTICIPLE** (OR **GERUND**). The present participle is the form of the verb that ends in **-ing**, for example **doing, eating** or **catching**. Sometimes the '-ing phrase' consists of a present participle on its own. The frame for a verb that takes an '-ing phrase' is ~ **doing sth**:

- *She never stops talking!*
- *I started looking for a job two years ago.*

Some verbs can be used with both a noun phrase and an '-ing phrase'. The frame for this is ~ **sb doing sth**, ~ **sth doing sth** or ~ **sb/sth doing sth**. The noun phrase can be the object of the main verb:

- *His comments set me thinking.*
- *I can smell something nice cooking.*

or the noun phrase and the '-ing phrase' together can be the object:

- *I hate him joking (= the fact that he jokes) about serious things.*

In this pattern, you can replace **him** with the possessive pronoun **his**:

- *I hate his joking about serious things.*

However, sentences with a possessive pronoun sound very formal and the object pronoun is more common, especially in American English. In cases where the verb itself is formal and the possessive pronoun may well be used, this is shown in the dictionary entry.

Verbs with direct speech

- Verbs like **say**, **answer** and **demand** can be used either to report what somebody has said using a 'that clause' or to give their exact words in **DIRECT SPEECH**, using quotation marks (' '). Verbs that can be used with direct speech have the frame + **speech**. Compare these two sentences:

- + **speech** *'It's snowing,' she said.*
- ~ **(that)...** *She said (that) it was snowing.*

Some verbs can be used with both direct speech and a noun phrase, to show who is being spoken to. The frame for this is ~ **sb** + **speech**:

- 'Tom's coming to lunch,' she told him.*

Verbs in the passive

- Most transitive verbs can be used in the passive:
 - Jill's behaviour annoyed me.*
 - I was annoyed by Jill's behaviour.*

If a verb can be active or passive, the same verb frame is used. If the verb is often passive, there will be an example in the passive.

confirm ⓘ **B1** ⓘ /kən'fɜ:m; NAmE -'fɜ:rm/ verb
1 ⓘ **B1** ⓘ to state or show that sth is definitely true or correct, especially by providing evidence: ~ **sth** *His guilty expression confirmed my suspicions.* ◊ *Rumours of job losses were later confirmed.* ◊ *She said she could not confirm or deny the allegations.* ◊ ~ **(that)...** *Police sources confirmed that ten people had been arrested at the march.* ◊ ~ **what/when, etc...** *Can you confirm what happened?* ◊ it is confirmed that ... *It has been confirmed that an official complaint was made to the council.* **2** ⓘ **B2** ⓘ to make a position, an agreement, etc. more definite or official; to establish sb/sth clearly: ~ **sth** *Please write to confirm your reservation* (= say that it is definite).

If a pattern is only or usually used in the passive, then the frame is put in the passive.

If a transitive verb cannot be used in the passive, the label [no passive] appears before the definition.

Verbs in different patterns

- Many verbs, for example **watch**, can be used in a number of different ways:
 - ~ **sb/sth do sth** *I watched him eat.*
 - ~ **sb/sth doing sth** *I watched him eating.*
 - ~ **sb/sth** *I watched the pianist's left hand.*
 - ~ **what, how, etc.** ... *I watched how the pianist used her left hand.*

The dictionary entry for each verb shows the different ways in which it can be used by giving a range of example sentences. The frame before each example shows what type of grammatical pattern is being used. When an example follows another one illustrating the same pattern, the frame is not repeated.

Sometimes patterns can combine with each other to form a longer pattern.

This happens especially with patterns involving particular prepositions or adverbs; and sometimes there is a choice of two or three different prepositions or adverbs:

- ~ **sth** *We shared the pizza.*
- ~ **sth out** *We shared out the pizza.*
- ~ **sth among sb** *We shared the pizza among the four of us.*
- ~ **sth between sb** *We shared the pizza between the four of us.*
- ~ **sth out among sb** *We shared the pizza out among the four of us.*
- ~ **sth out between sb** *We shared the pizza out between the four of us.*

In cases like this the dictionary does not always give a separate frame and example for each different combination. It may use brackets to show where part of a long frame can be left out, and slashes to show where there is a choice between two or three different words in the frame:

- **DIVIDE BETWEEN PEOPLE** **2** ⓘ **A1** ⓘ [T, I] to have part of sth while another person or other people also have part: ~ **sth with sb** *He shared the pie with her.* ◊ *The Hungarian king shared power with the Austrian emperor to form the Austro-Hungarian Empire.* **3** ⓘ **A1** ⓘ [T] ~ **sth** (out) (among/ between sb) to divide sth between two or more people: *We shared the pizza between the four of us.* ⓘ see also **JOB-SHARING, POWER-SHARING**

The frame ~ **(sb)**, ~ **(sth)** or ~ **(sb/sth)** may also be used, where a verb can be used without an object (that is, it can be intransitive), but is more commonly used with a noun phrase as object. In these cases the more common, transitive, use, is given in the first example(s), and any intransitive examples are placed after that:

broadcast ⓘ **B2** ⓘ /brɔ:dkɑ:st; NAmE -kæst/ verb, noun

- **verb** (**broad-cast, broad-cast**) **1** ⓘ **B2** ⓘ [T, I] ~ **(sth)** to send out programmes on television or radio: *The concert will be broadcast live* (= at the same time as it takes place) *tomorrow evening.* ◊ *They began broadcasting in 1922.* **2** [T] ~ **sth** to tell a lot of people about sth: *I don't like to broadcast the*

Sb and **sth** may also appear within brackets within longer frames, for example to show a verb that can take a preposition, adverb or 'that clause' either with or without a noun phrase as another object:

warn ⓘ **B1** ⓘ /wɔ:n; NAmE wɔ:rn/ verb **1** ⓘ **B1** ⓘ [T, I] to tell sb about sth, especially sth dangerous or unpleasant that is likely to happen, so that they can avoid it: ~ **sb** *I tried to warn him, but he wouldn't listen.* ◊ *If you're thinking of getting a dog, be warned—they take a lot of time and money.* ◊ ~ **(sb)** about / against sb / sth *Security experts warned about the problems months ago.* ◊ ~ **(sb)** of / about sth *Officials warned the pilot of an anonymous threat.* ◊ ~ **(sb)** that ... *Aid agencies have repeatedly warned that a humanitarian catastrophe is imminent.* ◊ ~ **sb what, how, etc...** *I had been warned what to expect.* ◊ ~ **(sb)** + speech *'Beware of pickpockets,' she warned (him).*