

## 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:

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

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.

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]

Remember:

A **direct object** answers the question "what?" or "whom?"

An **indirect object** answers the question "to whom?", "for whom?", "for what?"

**Quick List: Transitive Verbs**

accept	check	follow	love	sing
admit	clean	forget	make	start
answer	copy	get	meet	stay
ask	correct	give	open	stop
avoid	cover	grab	own	take
break	cut	have	pay	teach
bring	drink	hear	play	tell
buy	drive	help	read	understand
call	eat	keep	ride	use
carry	enjoy	leave	run	want
catch	feel	let	see	wash
change	find	like	sell	write

**Short List: Intransitive Verbs**

act	cost	go	live	sleep
agree	dance	grow	look	stand
appear	disappear	happen	move	swim
arrive	escape	jump	pray	travel
become	exist	learn	read	wait
belong	fall	lie	run	walk
come	fly	listen	sit	work