

17.1 Action Verbs • Practice 1

Visible and Mental Action A verb is a word that expresses time while showing an action, a condition, or the fact that something exists. An action verb is a verb that tells what action someone or something is performing. An action verb may show mental action as well as visible action.

Visible Action		Mental Action	
dig	yell	wonder	hope
measure	play	believe	think

Transitive and Intransitive Verbs An action verb is transitive if it directs action toward someone or something. An action verb is intransitive if it does not direct action toward someone or something.

Transitive	Intransitive
Angie <i>played</i> baseball. (played what?) baseball	Danny <i>played</i> well. (played what?) no answer

Exercise 1 **Recognizing Visible and Mental Actions.** Underline each verb that shows visible action. Circle each verb that shows mental action.

EXAMPLE: No one understood the question.

- Hansel and Gretel wandered through the forest.
- The teacher carefully considered the question.
- Grandma always gives me a treat.
- David wrote an excellent essay.
- The plane glided to a stop.
- We wanted to surprise Jessica with a birthday party.
- Our team built the best sand castle.
- Last night our family talked about our summer vacation.
- Darin wished for a career in music.
- We planted marigolds all around the vegetable garden.

Exercise 2 **Distinguishing Between Transitive and Intransitive Verbs.** On each blank at the right, write *transitive* or *intransitive* to describe the action verb in each sentence.

EXAMPLE: Janet studied hard for the test. intransitive

- My mother studied Latin in high school. _____
- All the scout troops marched in the holiday parade. _____
- Dana entered her poem in the contest. _____
- The chef prepared spectacular desserts. _____
- The cowhand swung his lariat high above his head. _____
- The monkeys swung from tree to tree. _____
- Prairie dogs tunnel underground. _____
- We divided the rest of the cake among us. _____
- The train departed an hour late. _____
- After their long trek, the hikers ate greedily. _____