

Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

Mr. Schroeder's English I



Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

- An action verb can be *transitive* or *intransitive*.

Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

- An action verb is **transitive** if it directs action toward someone or something named in the same sentence.
- An action verb is **intransitive** if it does not direct action toward someone or something named in the sentence.
- The receiver of the action of a transitive verb is called the *object* of the verb. Intransitive verbs, however, have no objects.

TRANSITIVE:

Pat *carried* her books to the lecture on Asia.

INTRANSITIVE:

The temperature *fell* quickly.

How can you tell?

Transitive or Intransitive?

- Most action verbs can be transitive in one sentence and intransitive in another.
- To determine whether a verb is transitive or intransitive, ask ***Whom? or What?*** after the verb.
- If you can find the answer in the sentence, the verb is transitive. If not, the verb is intransitive.

TRANSITIVE:

Bill *reads* books about Asia.

INTRANSITIVE:

Bill *reads* every night before going to bed.

Examples of Transitive Verbs

- I *sold* some books.
- I *took* the bus.
- I *bought* a radio.
- I *understood* her question.
- I *wrote* a letter.

Examples of Intransitive Verbs

- I slept.
- I coughed.
- The glass fell.
- My cat ran.
- The sun rose.

Interactive Quiz!

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