

Lesson 117

Parts of the Sentence - Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

Transitive verbs are verbs that have subjects or objects that receive the action. They are either *active voice* or *passive voice*.

Transitive active verbs are the verbs in sentences with a direct object. The **subject** is the doer and the **direct object** is the receiver of the action.

Example:

The **boy** **kicked** the **ball**.

Transitive passive verbs have the subject receiving the action with the doer in a **prepositional phrase** or omitted in the sentence. The verb in the *transitive passive* voice always has *is, am, are, was, were, be, being, or been* as an auxiliary or **helping verb**.

Examples:

The **ball** **was kicked** **by the boy**.

The **ball** **was kicked** hard.

Intransitive verbs have no receiver of the action. They are classified as *intransitive complete* or *intransitive linking*.

Intransitive linking are sentences with a **predicate nominative** or **predicate adjective**.

Examples:

The **girl** **is** **Mary**. (predicate nominative)

The **girl** **is** **cute**. (predicate adjective)

Intransitive complete are all the verbs that don't fit one of the other kinds of transitive or intransitive verbs.

Examples:

The **bell** **rang** suddenly. (no receiver of the action)

The **girl** **knitted** all evening. (no receiver of the action)

They **were** here. (no action or predicate nominative or predicate adjective)

Instructions: Tell whether the **verbs** in the following sentences are *transitive active*, *transitive passive*, *intransitive linking*, or *intransitive complete*.

1. The hikers reached the mountain by nightfall.
2. They prepared their own meals that night.
3. Last week the family painted the house.
4. Jane spent her vacation in the Grand Tetons.
5. The apricot tree spread its branches over the fence.