

Transitive and Intransitive verbs

A **transitive verb** has a **direct object**



Examples:

1. Fikile harvested (**verb**) the potatoes (**direct object**) in his mother's garden (**indirect object**).
2. I studied (**verb**) the textbook (**direct object**) belonging to Didi (**indirect object**).



An **intransitive verb** does **not** have a **direct object**

Examples:

1. I listened (**verb**) out of care.
2. I wrote (**verb**) to the principal.



Source: *Guidelines Study guide: English Grammar for the Senior Phase*

Activity One

Underline the direct object and circle the indirect object in each sentence.

1. Rihanna sang a ballad for the loyal fans.
2. President Ian Khama delivered a moving speech to the crowds of children.
3. Nandipha gave a book to each child.
4. Please chop the onions for the stew.

Activity Two

Draw two columns in your classwork book. Label one **transitive** and the other **intransitive**. Write each of the following sentences under the correct heading, based on whether they contain **transitive** or **intransitive** verbs.

- a) The composer smiled out of respect.
- b) She pushed the letter through the window.
- c) Fireman often put out fires in factories
- d) He built with pride.
- e) Gladys picked the flowers from her neighbour's garden.
- f) He reads books to help him fall asleep.
- g) Jim is sleeping so don't be so loud.
- h) The train stopped abruptly.
- i) For about an hour, they passed the ball back and forth.

Transitive and Intransitive Verbs Worksheet Answer Key

1. When he arrived, nobody was there to greet him. (I)
2. I bought a bicycle so I can go to school faster. (T)
3. The boy laughed so much that milk came out of his nose. (I)
4. He reads books to help him fall asleep. (T)
5. Jim is sleeping so don't be so loud. (I)
6. When I lie down, I like to sleep on my back. (I)
7. In order to catch up in class, she wrote an essay. (T)
8. The man sneezed so hard that he fell from his chair. (I)
9. She sat down patiently waiting for her homework. (I)
10. For about an hour, they passed the ball back and forth. (T)
11. The family turned off the light and went to sleep. (T)
12. We moved the tables next to each other. (T)
13. He puts on his winter boots because it's so cold outside. (T)
14. They waited but nobody helped them find their room. (I)
15. The train stopped abruptly. (I)