

## Verbs and objects

Some verbs take an object. They are called “object verbs” or transitive verbs. Those verbs that do not take an object are called “no-object verbs” or intransitive verbs.



### Intransitive verbs

Intransitive verbs usually show motion or where a person or thing is located. They do not need an object to make sense. This means that no word receives the action of the verb; in other words, the action stops with the doer. For example, *dive*, *sleep* or *go* are intransitive verbs because they do not take an object. Such verbs are often followed by a description of place or destination.

Subject	Predicate/Verb
The boys	dive.

The boys **dive** off the bridge.

“Dive” is an intransitive verb. It does not take an object.

**Clue:** An intransitive verb must have a preposition to attach to a noun.

### Transitive verbs

Any verb that requires a direct object is known as a transitive verb. This means that the action passes from the subject or doer to something else. The verb in effect carries its “action” from a subject to a direct object.

For example in the following example the “gift” receives the action of the verb “to buy”.

Subject	Predicate	
	Verb	Direct Object
I	buy	a gift.

**Q:** Is “to buy” a transitive verb?

**A:** Yes, if it takes a direct object.

**Q:** How do I know?

**A:** Just ask, “**what do I buy?**” The answer is a “gift”. As the verb “to buy” takes a direct object, it is called a transitive verb.

Sentence: underline the verb.	Is it a transitive or an intransitive verb?
1. She ran away.	
2. They danced until midnight.	
3. She received a present.	
4. She saw her friend.	
5. The boy ate a roll.	
6. She played all day.	
7. Jack kicks the football.	
8. Sally went to netball training.	

**Exercise 4**

## Verbs and objects

**Nathan writes:** “Ms Duff opposes that the Naplan tests lead to an increase in homework.”

The verb, “opposes”, is incorrect because it must have a direct object. i.e. one must oppose a view, an idea or a scheme.

**Correction:** “Ms Duff opposes the view that the Naplan tests lead to an increase in homework.”



Some verbs take an object. They are called “object verbs” or **transitive verbs**. This means that the action passes from the subject or doer to something else.

Verbs such as “to condemn”, “to highlight”, “to advocate” and “to express” are transitive verbs. They must take a grammatical object. (They cannot be followed by a preposition.)

*“The author expresses the view that the scheme would lead to wasted funds.”*

Verbs that do not take an object are called “no-object verbs” or **intransitive verbs**. Intransitive verbs usually show motion or location. They do not need an object. This means that no word receives the action of the verb; in other words, the action stops with the doer.

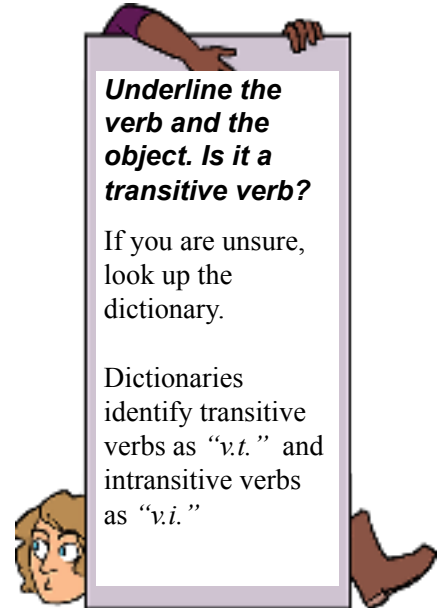
Such verbs are often followed by a preposition:

*“He disagrees with his opponents.”*

**Underline the verb and the object. Is it a transitive verb?**

If you are unsure, look up the dictionary.

Dictionaries identify transitive verbs as “v.t.” and intransitive verbs as “v.i.”



### Exercise 5

#### A. Indicate whether the (bolded) verb is transitive (t) or intransitive (i).

1. Mr Xio **defends** the role of the Climate Change Authority.
2. He **counsels** against the wholesale adoption of a new approach.
3. Mr Smith **discredits** the motives of coal diggers.
4. She **challenges** the view that people will have to rely on public transport.
5. The spokesperson **protests** against the introduction of injecting rooms.
6. Ms Humphries **condemns** citizens who refuse to minimise their carbon footprint.

#### B. Underline the incorrect verb-object combination and rewrite the sentence.

1. The author condemns that there are people who do not vaccinate their children.
2. Ms Jeffery highlights with supporters that those who appear to be different will suffer discrimination.
3. She wants to deter from going to the park.
4. He reassures that the decision to remove the principal was in the best interests of the school community.
5. She challenges against the Government’s decision to force people to take public transport on weekends.
6. The reference to “weaning” discredits against the junk food industry.
7. The experiment shows that we do not contemplate about other innocent species.