

# THE TRANSITIVE VERB

## Recognize a transitive verb when you find one.

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A transitive verb has two characteristics. First, it is an **action verb**, expressing a doable activity like *kick, want, paint, write, eat, clean*, etc. Second, it must have a **direct object**, something or someone who *receives* the action of the verb.

This is the pattern:

**Subject** + **Action Verb** + **Direct Object**

Read these examples:

Sylvia **kicked** Juan under the table.

**Kicked** = transitive verb; **Juan** = direct object (the person that Sylvia, the **subject**, *kicked*).

Joshua **wants** a smile from Leodine, his beautiful but serious lab partner.

**Wants** = transitive verb; **smile** = direct object (the thing that Joshua, the subject, *wants*).

Cornelius **painted** the canvas in Jackson Pollock fashion, dribbling bright colors from a heavily soaked brush.

**Painted** = transitive verb; **canvas** = direct object (the thing that Cornelius, the subject, *painted*).

Alicia **wrote** a love poem on a restaurant napkin.

**Wrote** = transitive verb; **poem** = direct object (the thing that Alicia, the subject, *wrote*).

Antonio **will eat** lima beans drenched in brown gravy.

**Will eat** = transitive verb; **lima beans** = direct object (the things that Antonio, the subject, *will eat*).

Pinky the poodle **cleans** the dirty supper dishes with his tongue before Grandma **loads** the "prewashed" items into the dishwasher.

***Cleans, loads*** = transitive verbs; ***dishes, items*** = direct objects (the things that Pinky, the first subject, *cleans* and Grandma, the second subject, *loads*).

**Important note:** An action verb is **intransitive** when no direct object follows it.

