

**LESSON 17**

## Transitive Verbs and Intransitive Verbs

A **direct object** receives the action in the sentence. An action verb that has a direct object is called a **transitive verb**. An action verb that does not have a direct object is called an **intransitive verb**. A verb may be transitive in one sentence and intransitive in another.

**EXAMPLES**

- transitive verb**      The salesman **rang** the doorbell repeatedly. (The doorbell receives the action; therefore, it is the direct object. *Rang* is a transitive verb.)
- intransitive verb**      The doorbell **rang**, but no one answered it. (There is no direct object; therefore, *rang* is an intransitive verb.)

**EXERCISE 1**

**Identifying Transitive and Intransitive Verbs in Literature**

Identify the underlined verbs in the following literature passage as either transitive or intransitive. If a verb is transitive, identify its direct object. Write your answers on the corresponding lines below.

When Satchel finally <sup>1</sup>reached the mound, Cleveland manager Lou Boudreau <sup>2</sup>took the ball from starting pitcher Bob Lemon, who would eventually be voted into the Hall of Fame but <sup>3</sup>had tired that day, and <sup>4</sup>gave it to Paige. Probably he said something like, "Shut 'em down, Satchel." Whatever he said, Paige <sup>5</sup>had no doubt heard the words a thousand times. Though he was a rookie with the Indians that year, no pitcher in the history of baseball had ever been more thoroughly prepared for a job. He <sup>6</sup>kicked at the rubber, looked in for the sign, and got set to throw. In a moment, twenty-odd years later than it <sup>7</sup>should have happened, Satchel Paige <sup>8</sup>would deliver his first pitch in the big leagues.

*from "Satchel Paige," page 332  
Bill Littlefield*

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 8. _____ |

## EXERCISE 2

### Understanding Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

Write a sentence using the transitive or intransitive verb indicated. Underline the verb. If the verb is transitive, then double underline its direct object.

EXAMPLES

lost (transitive)

Sasha lost her wallet at the basketball game.

refuses (intransitive)

Riley asks him to join in, but Jonathon refuses.

1. grows (transitive)

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2. understand (transitive)

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3. sailed (intransitive)

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4. were moving (intransitive)

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5. have saluted (transitive)

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6. handed (transitive)

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7. assisted (transitive)

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8. prepared (intransitive)

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9. spent (transitive)

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10. knows (transitive)

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