

Transitive vs. Intransitive Verbs

English 1

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Transitive verbs

VERB + OBJECT

- When used in active voice, require further information to complete their meaning and are followed by objects

Examples:

- I'll have to get **a new battery** for it.
- Raise **your hand** if you can hear me.
- Take **what you want**.
- They make **computers**.

Examples:

- **INCOMPLETE**
 - The shelf **holds**.
- **COMPLETE**
 - The shelf **holds** three books and a vase of flowers.
- **INCOMPLETE**
 - The committee **named**.
- **COMPLETE**
 - The committee **named** a new chairperson.
- **INCOMPLETE**
 - The child **broke**.
- **COMPLETE**
 - The child **broke** the plate.

Intransitive verbs

An **intransitive verb**, on the other hand, *cannot* take a direct object:

The system **has fallen down**.

The temperature **dropped**.