

SENTENCE PATTERNS: SAMPLES

1. S--Vi--(Adv.)

(Subject--Intransitive Verb--Adverb, usually optional)

The man **coughed** (loudly).

The audience **laughed**.

The guest **has arrived**.

The children **walked** down the street.

The waiter **hurried** away from the door.

Note: An intransitive verb is an action verb that does not require a direct object or a complement to complete its meaning. The word "intransitive" literally means "does not carry across." Therefore, the action of the verb does not transfer to an object, that is, a person or thing that receives the action of the verb. Often, adverbs or adverb phrases will appear in these sentences to expand the basic meaning of the verb.

Note: Some intransitive verbs can take a direct object in a different sentence. Usually the meaning of the verb changes in a sentence requiring a direct object. Here is an example:

He **runs** every morning. (intransitive verb)

He **runs** a successful business. (transitive verb)

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2. Transitive Verb Patterns (Active Voice)

A. S--Vtr--DO (Subject + Transitive Verb + Direct Object)

The dog catches the ball.

The baby likes bananas.

Dogs chase cats.

That man teaches English.

The scientist performed an experiment.

Note: Some verbs require an adverb with this pattern.

S--Vtr--DO--Adv. (Subject + Transitive Verb + Direct Object + Adverb)

The guard put the key in the door.

The police treated the old man politely.

B. S--Vtr--IO--DO (Subject + Transitive Verb + Indirect Object + Direct Object)

Tom wrote his mother a letter.

Mr. Smith teaches the students English.

The dog gives the man the newspaper.

The shopper gave the clerk ten dollars.

Pearl sent Tom a book.

C. S--Vtr--DO--OC (Subject + Transitive Verb + Direct Object + Object Complement)

He called the teacher a genius.

Teaching English is driving Shelley bananas.

The class elected Jerry president.

Studying keeps him busy.

The lawyer considered the defendant innocent.

Alice cut her hair short.

The child made her mother happy.

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3. S--Vlk--SC (Subject--Linking Verb--Subject Complement)

That man is a merchant.

His brother became chairman.

He will remain an officer.

The nurse seemed tired.

This soup tastes good.

I feel sick.

My grandfather looks (or appears) old.

His hair turned gray.

Note: You can often determine whether the verb is linking by replacing it with "to be." If the meaning of the sentence remains the same, you have a linking verb.

Note: A subject complement follows a linking verb. It can be either a noun or an adjective. The noun SC renames or identifies the subject. The adjective SC describes the subject.

SENTENCE PATTERNS: SAMPLES

4a. S--V(to be)--Adv or PP
(Subject--Verb ("to be")--Adverb or Prepositional Phrase)

My parents are here.

My house is on Vanowen Street.

The groceries are in the kitchen.

Note: This pattern is similar to pattern 3 (S--Vlk--SC). However, the verb is not followed by a subject complement (an adjective or noun that completes the meaning of the subject). Instead, an adverb of place or a prepositional phrase showing location completes the meaning of be. In this case, "to be" is not a linking verb. Some grammar books will call "to be" an intransitive verb in this special case. Intransitive verbs do not require a complement or a direct object to complete their meaning.

4b. There--V(to be)--S--Adv or PP
(There--Verb ("to be")--Subject--Adverb or Prepositional Phrase)

There was some money in my pocket.

There were two exams yesterday.

Note: This pattern is often called the "delayed subject" pattern. The word "there" (called an expletive) fills in the place where the subject normally appears. The subject doesn't appear until after the verb. If you delete "there" and move the subject into its normal position in front of the verb, you have made this a "pattern 4a" sentence. Remember that "there" is never the subject of the verb. The verb must agree in number (singular or plural) with the subject word that follows it. If you understand this pattern, you will always know whether to make the verb singular or plural.

NOTES ON TRANSITIVE VERB PATTERNS:

1. The action expressed by a transitive verb "carries across" to a receiver. The receiver of the action is called the **direct object**. Transitive verbs require a direct object to complete their meaning. A good test for recognizing a direct object is to ask the question "what?" after the verb. The answer is the direct object.
2. The **indirect object** comes between a transitive verb and the direct object of that verb. The I.O. receives the result of the action; in other words, the I.O. receives the D.O. A good way to identify the indirect object is to ask the question "to whom?" or "for whom?" after the direct object. The answer is the indirect object.
3. An **object complement** completes the meaning of the direct object with a noun that renames it or an adjective that describes it.
4. In the **active voice** transitive verb patterns shown on page 2, the **subject** of the sentence performs the action of the verb. Only transitive verb patterns can be changed to the passive voice. In the **passive voice**, the subject of the sentence **does not** perform the action of the verb. The subject is usually the receiver of the action (a direct or indirect object). Form the passive verb using "to be" as an auxiliary plus the past participle of the main verb.

Examples:

Active voice: The dog catches the ball.

Passive voice: The ball is caught (by the dog).

Active voice: The scientist performed an experiment.

Passive voice: An experiment was performed (by the scientist).

Active voice: Pearl sent Tom a book.

Passive voice: A book was sent to Tom (by Pearl).
or
Tom was sent a book (by Pearl).

Active voice: He called the teacher a genius.

Passive voice: The teacher was called a genius.

S-IV (Subject-Intransitive verb)

S-TV-DO (Subject-Transitive verb-Direct object)

S-TV-IO-DO (Subject-Transitive verb-Indirect object-Direct object)

S-TV-DO-OC (Subject-Transitive verb-Direct object-Object compliment)
S-LV-PN (Subject-Linking verb-Predicate noun)
S-LV-PA (Subject-Linking verb-Predicate adjectives)

These are the sentence pattern that you need to explain :)

S-IV (Subject-Intransitive verb)

The "do-er" of the action plus an action word that stands on its own without taking a direct object.

Example: John (subject) collapses (intransitive verb)

S-TV-DO (Subject-Transitive verb-Direct object)

The "do-er" of the action plus an action word plus a direct object to whom/which the action is done.

They (subject) watch (transitive verb) television (direct object).

S-TV-IO-DO (Subject-Transitive verb-Indirect object-Direct object)

We (subject) give (transitive verb) these men (indirect object) our money (direct object).

S-TV-DO-OC (Subject-Transitive verb-Direct object-Object compliment)

The president (subject) made (transitive verb) his brother (direct object) a vice-president (object complement).

S-LV-PN (Subject-Linking verb-Predicate noun)

Mrs Jones (subject) is (linking verb) my cousin (predicate noun).

S-LV-PA (Subject-Linking verb-Predicate adjectives)

His conduct (subject) has been (linking verb) disgraceful (predicate adjective) and dangerous (predicate adjective).

You can find out all about subjects, verbs, direct/indirect objects, complements and predicates at:

<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/o...>

Source:

Studied and taught English.

Quick rules:

Transitive verbs are action verbs that require a direct object. The verb's action is transferred directly to the object, which can be a noun, pronoun, phrase, or clause.

Find the direct object by asking Subject + Verb + What/Whom? My dad is driving Fred to his friend's house. My dad is driving whom? Fred. That's the direct object. Therefore, drive is a transitive verb.

Intransitive verbs don't require a direct object. My dad goes to work every morning. My dad goes what or whom? That doesn't make sense, so there is no direct object. Therefore,

go is an intransitive verb. [In this sentence, the natural question is: My dad goes where? Where questions are answered by prepositional phrases, such as 'to work.']}

The tricky part: Many verbs can be either transitive or intransitive, depending on context.

After we eat at my house, we can go outside. (intransitive)

After we eat our sandwiches, we can go outside. (transitive)

The truck runs on diesel gasoline. (intransitive)

My uncle runs a restaurant. (transitive)

I'm reading. (intransitive)

I'm reading an article in TIME magazine about sharks. (transitive)

Quick tip: Sentences written in the passive voice always contain a transitive verb. It makes sense when you think about it. When the writer uses the passive voice, the subject is hidden and the focus is on the direct object. Break it down using the same Subject + Verb + What/Whom? formula, and fill in the missing subject.

Rachel was given detention. [The teacher] gave what? Detention (direct object). To whom? Rachel (indirect object). Since there is a direct object, give is a transitive verb.

The ball was hit past third base. [The batter] hit what? The ball (direct object). To/For whom? We don't know (no indirect object). Since there is a direct object, hit is a transitive verb.