THE TRANSITIVE VERB

Recognize a transitive verb when you find one.

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.