

Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

A **transitive verb** is an action verb that is followed by a noun or pronoun that receives the action. Therefore, all transitive verbs have a direct object.

Example:

I *know* the story.

An **intransitive verb** includes all linking verbs and any action verbs that do not take an object.

Example:

Greyfriars Bobby *was* a Skye terrier. "Auld Jack" Gray *died*.



Write the action verb in each sentence and, if there is one, the direct object. Then identify the verb as *transitive* or *intransitive*.

1. Throughout history, men and women have traveled in search of adventure.

2. Their discoveries have increased knowledge about our world.

3. Centuries ago, Marco Polo brought tales of the Orient to people in his country.

4. Even in recent decades, explorers have ventured into unmapped areas.

5. Today, organizations such as the Sierra Club offer members expeditions once available only to explorers.

6. People will never lose their interest in exploring the unknown.

7. Astronauts, scientists, and others have already traveled into space.

8. Native American myths and folktales often use Coyote as the main character.

9. Typically, Coyote tricks his opponents in the stories.

10. In one important Navajo tale, Coyote creates the world.

11. In other stories, he slays monsters through trickery.

12. However, Coyote's tricks sometimes backfire.

13. Modern writers have written poems and stories about this fascinating creature.



Active and Passive Voice

Voice is that property of a verb that indicates whether the subject of the verb is performing or receiving an action.

When a verb is in the **active voice**, the subject performs the action.

Examples:

He wrote the letter. They are working in the city.

When a verb is in the **passive voice**, the subject receives the action.

Examples:

A soldier was awarded a medal. We were impressed by the beauty of the performance.

Use the active voice more than the passive voice when you write since active verbs are stronger than passive verbs.



Rewrite each sentence in the active voice.

1. Surfing has been enjoyed by young men and women for many years.

2. In many parts of the country, the sport was popularized by singing groups.

3. Surfing music was played by numerous groups.

4. Many teenagers were introduced to surfing by the music of these groups.

5. These songs are still enjoyed by many people.

6. The waves are carefully watched by surfers all along the coast.

7. The exhilaration and sense of freedom that come from riding the waves are enjoyed by surfers.

8. The walls of the room were almost covered with posters of musicians.

9. A trade agreement with Mexico has been approved by the Senate.

10. Most of their spare time was spent on the farm.

