

Transitive and Intransitive Verbs Worksheet

Instructions: *Decide whether the verb in each sentence is transitive or intransitive. Be prepared to explain your answer.*

1. **I've got your parcel at my house.**

- Transitive.
- Intransitive.

2. **I couldn't sleep anymore so I got up (two verbs: 'sleep' and 'got up').**

- Transitive.
- Intransitive.

3. **He listened to loud music all night.**

- Transitive.
- Intransitive.

4. **John sat on the table.**

- Transitive.
- Intransitive.

5. **The bus finally arrived.**

- Transitive.
- Intransitive.

6. **I left her a message.**

- Transitive.
- Intransitive.

7. **Shall I make lunch?**

- Transitive.
- Intransitive.

8. **They migrated south because of the war.**

- Transitive.
- Intransitive.

9. **He drank from the bottle.**

- Transitive.
- Intransitive.

10. **He drank his beer from the bottle.**

- Transitive.
- Intransitive.

11. She seemed happy.

- Transitive.
- Intransitive.

12. The flowers are growing quickly.

- Transitive.
- Intransitive.

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Answers

1. I've got your parcel at my house - Transitive.

The verb has an object (parcel) and so it is transitive. The verb will not make sense if you take away the direct object.

2. I couldn't sleep any more so I got up (two verbs: 'sleep' and 'got up') - Intransitive.

The verb 'sleep' does not have a direct object (noun) and neither does 'got up' so they are intransitive.

3. He listened to loud music all night - Transitive.

The verb 'listened' has an object (music) and so it is transitive. There may be modifiers in the sentence (an adjective 'loud' in this case) but 'music' is still the object of 'listened'.

4. John sat on the table - Intransitive.

'on' is a preposition, so 'on the table' is a prepositional phrase that describes where John sat; The noun 'table' is not the receiver of the verb 'sat'. It is just completing the prepositional phrase.

5. The bus finally arrived - Intransitive.

There is no noun after the verb 'arrived'. The sentence makes sense with no object.

6. I left her a message - Transitive.

This is a transitive verb with a direct (message) and indirect (her) object.

7. Shall I make lunch - Transitive.

Lunch is the direct object.

8. They migrated south because of the war - Intransitive.

South is a direction (an adverb) that tells you where the migrants went; it is not the object of the verb 'migrated'. 'The war' is not relevant as it's not the object of 'migrated' - that part of the sentence is giving a reason why.

9. He drank from the bottle - Intransitive.

We don't know what was drunk. The phrase 'from the bottle' is a prepositional phrase, not an object.

10. He drank his beer from the bottle - Transitive.

In this case we know what he drank, the 'beer', which is the object of 'drank'.

11. She seemed happy - Intransitive.

'Seem' is an intransitive linking verb. 'Happy' is an adjective, not a noun.

12. The flowers are growing quickly - Intransitive.

There is no noun after the verb 'are growing'.

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