

Verbs

Verbs are usually defined as "action" words or "doing" words.

The **verb** in the following sentence **is rides**:

Paul *rides* a motorcycle.

Here, the verb *rides* certainly shows an action which Paul performs – the action of riding a bicycle.

Here are some examples of verbs in sentences:

- [1] She *travels* to work by train.
- [2] David *sings* in the choir.
- [3] We *walked* five miles to a garage.
- [4] I *cooked* a meal for the family.

Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

Depending on the type of object they take, verbs may be transitive or intransitive.

The meaning of a transitive verb is incomplete without a direct object, as in the following examples:

INCOMPLETE TRANSITIVE VERB:

The shelf *holds*. ??????????

COMPLETE:

The shelf *holds* books. *Books* is the object.

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

COMPLETE:

The plane *arrived*.

The intransitive verb, *arrived*, takes no direct object.

If we add modifiers to this **arrived** verb, these modifiers ARE NOT DIRECT OBJECTS:

The plane from Los Angeles *arrived LATER THAN USUAL*.

Later than usual modifies *arrived*, but it is NOT the object of *arrived*.

To repeat: We have TRANSITIVE VERBS and INTRANSITIVE VERBS