

*4.5<sup>th</sup> Handout – Subjects & Predicates, Verb objects & Complements,  
Transitive/Intransitive, & other Stuff*

***Subjects and Predicates***

*In the following sentences underline the complete subject once and the complete predicate twice.*

- 1) The classroom in F-wing suddenly darkened.
  
- 2) Tom had backed into the light switch and cut the power.
  
- 3) Each of the students in the darkened classroom groped awkwardly for something that would allow them to cope.

***Verb objects and complements***

*Identify the verb objects and complements in each sentence by writing DO, IO, OC, PA or PN above the appropriate word. There may be none.*

- 4) In fact, Tom had not hit the light switch.
  
- 5) A powerful electrical current had surged through the campus and ruined circuits across the college.

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6) At least, the electric company and the college administration told faculty and students that story.

7) The truth was a bit more bizarre.

8) Near Lake Pam lives a colony of potato gnomes.

9) These generally industrious creatures sometimes survive into an afterlife.

10) The ghost of a particularly lively potato gnome had given its fellows too much trouble.

11) It had left living gnomes candy in their sleeping burrows, and potato gnomes hate candy.

12) The angry gnomes called the ghost a dog and banished it from their presence.

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13) It was the gnome ghost [that caused the energy flux at the college.] *Look for objects in the main clause and also in the dependent clause.*

***Transitive and Intransitive verbs***

*If a verb in the active voice does not need an object to complete its meaning, it is intransitive. Verbs in the active voice that require objects to complete their meaning are transitive. Think of transitive verbs as “transferring” or “transiting” their action to a direct object.*

*Analyze the following sentences. Mark subjects, phrases, verbs, direct objects, etc. In one grammatical fashion or another, account for each word.*

14) The ghostly gnome was named Joad.

15) In life, Joad had herded potatoes [as potato gnomes do].

16) He always gave his elders unwanted advice and played jokes on unsuspecting gnomes.

*Above, which verbs are transitive? Which are intransitive?*

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*Below underline the verbs and mark them as transitive or intransitive.*

17) Joad liked apples.

18) That of course got him into trouble with the Apple Sauce Man.

19) The Apple Sauce Man owned the potato patch [that the gnomes worked.] *Be careful with this one.*

20) In the end, Joad floated to the college and began a new afterlife in its electrical circuits.