

4.5th Handout - Subjects & Predicates, Verb objects & Complements,
Transitive/Intransitive, & other Stuff

Subjects and Predicates

(You)

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,) ^S Tom ^{AV} had not hit ^{DO} the light switch.

5) A powerful electrical current ^S had ^{AV} surged (through the campus) and ^{AV} ruined ^{DO} circuits (across the college.)

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6) (At least) ^S the electric company and the college administration ^S told ^{IO} faculty and students that story.
_{IO DO}

7) The truth ^S was ^{LV} a bit more ^{PA} bizarre.
was

8) (Near Lake Pam) ^S lives a colony (of potato gnomes.) No objects or complements

9) These generally industrious ^S creatures sometimes ^{AV} survive (into an afterlife.) No objects or complements

10) The ghost ^S (of a particularly lively potato gnome) ^{AV} had given ^{IO} its fellows too much trouble.
_{DO}

11) It ^S had left ^{AV} living gnomes ^{IO} candy ^{DO} (in their sleeping burrows) and potato gnomes ^S hate ^{AV} candy.
_{DO}

12) The angry gnomes ^S called ^{AV} the ghost a dog ^{DO} and ^{CC} banished ^{AV} it ^{DO} (from their presence.)

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13) It ^{SLV} was the gnome ghost [^{PN S AV} that caused the energy flux ^{DO} (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.

Transitive 14) The ghostly gnome ^S was named ^{AV} Joad. ^{DO}

Transitive 15) (In life,) Joad had herded ^{S AV DO} potatoes [^{subordinate conjunction} as ^{S AV} potato gnomes do]. ^{subordinate clause}

Transitive 16) He always gave ^{S AV IO} his elders unwanted advice and ^{DO} played ^{AV DO} 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) ^S Joad ^{AV} liked ^{DO} apples. TRANSITIVE

18) ^S That (of course) ^{AV} got ^{DO} him (into trouble) (with the Apple Sauce Man.) Transitive

19) ^S The Apple Sauce Man ^{AV} owned ^{DO DO} the potato patch [^S that the gnomes ^{AV} worked.] ^{AV} Be careful with this one.

main clause
is
transitive

Relative clause is also transitive.

20) (In the end,) ^S Joad ^{AV} floated (to the college) ^{DO} and began a new afterlife (in its electrical circuits.)

Intransitive

TRANSITIVE