

Verbs can be classified as transitive or intransitive based on whether they require an object to complete their meaning.

Transitive Verbs

A transitive verb requires a direct object to complete its meaning.

The action of the verb is transferred to the object.

Subject + Verb + Object

Examples:

She wrote a letter.

(The action "wrote" is transferred to the object "letter.")

They built a house.

(The verb "built" needs the object "house" to make sense.)

He likes chocolate.

("Chocolate" is the object of the verb "likes.")

Intransitive Verbs

An intransitive verb does not require an object to complete its meaning.

The action is complete in itself and does not pass to an object.

Subject + Verb

Examples:

The baby cried.

(No object is needed after "cried.")

She sings beautifully.

(The verb "sings" does not need an object, but there's an adverb "beautifully" describing how she sings.)

We slept early.

(The verb "slept" completes the sentence without an object.)

Finite and Non-finite Verbs

Verbs can be classified as finite or non-finite based on whether they show tense, number, and person.

Finite Verbs

A finite verb changes according to the tense, number, and person of the subject.

It is the main verb in a clause and is essential to form a complete sentence.

Characteristics:

Shows tense (past, present, future).

Changes form according to the subject.

Examples:

1. She writes a letter. (Present tense; verb agrees with "she.")

2. They played football yesterday. (Past tense; no change based on subject "they.")

3. I am happy. (Verb "am" changes with the subject "I.")

Non-finite Verbs

A non-finite verb does not change according to the tense, number, or person.

It cannot function as the main verb in a sentence.

Types of non-finite verbs include:

Infinitives

Gerunds

Participles

Characteristics:

Remain the same regardless of the subject or tense.

Often used as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs.

Examples:

Infinitive: To + base form of the verb

I like to read.

She wants to dance.

Gerund: Verb + ing (functions as a noun)

Reading is my hobby.

They enjoy swimming.

Participle: Verb + ing or Verb + ed/en (functions as an adjective)

The singing bird is beautiful.

The broken glass needs replacement.