

III XUS Learning Objectives - Verbs of Incomplete Predication

At the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

1. Define transitive and intransitive verbs.
2. Define a verb of incomplete predication for transitive and intransitive verbs.
3. Define subjective complement of intransitive verbs.
4. Define objective complement of transitive verbs.
5. Identify the difference between a transitive verb of incomplete predication and a transitive verb with two objects.

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Verb

A **verb** is a word that **describes an action** or a **state of being**.

A sentence needs a **verb** for it to be a **complete thought** or **idea**. The **predicate** contains the **verb**.

Examples:

1. Riya **writes** a story.

↓
verb

The **verb** denotes an **action** that Riya does.

2. Riya **is** very tall.

↓
verb

The **verb** denotes Riya's **state of being** or **condition**.

Types of Verbs

An **action verb** denotes an **action** taking place **physically** or **mentally**. It tells us what a person or thing **does**.

There are two kinds of action verbs: **transitive verbs** and **intransitive verbs**.

Transitive Verb

A verb which takes an **object** to receive the action and complete the meaning of the sentence, is known as a **transitive verb**.

- The **object** refers to a person or thing that is **different** or **separate** from the subject.
- The **object** may be a **living** or a **non-living thing**.

A **transitive verb** takes a **direct object**.

Sometimes, a transitive verb may take **two objects**: a **direct object** and an **indirect object**.

Direct Object

The **noun** or **pronoun** which **receives** the **direct action** or is **directly affected** by the action, is called the **direct object** of the verb.

The direct object may refer to a **living** or a **non-living thing**.

To find the **direct object** of a verb in a sentence, ask the question, "**What?**" or "**Whom?**" after the verb.

Example:

Ryan **played** football.

transitive verb direct object

Ask the question: Ryan played **what** or **whom?**

Answer: football

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Indirect Object

To find the **indirect object** of a verb in a sentence, ask the question, "To Whom?" or "For Whom?" after the verb.

Example: Hannah **baked** a **cake** for **Sam**.

↓ ↓ ↓
verb direct indirect
 object object

To find the **direct object** of the verb, ask the question:
Hannah baked **what**?

Answer: cake

To find the **indirect object** of the verb, ask the question:
Hannah baked a cake for **whom**?

Answer: Sam

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Indirect Object

The **noun** or **pronoun** which is **indirectly affected** by the action of a verb, is called the **indirect object** of the verb.

- An **indirect object** comes before the direct object and indicates **who** or **what** receives the direct object.
- A **direct object** is **required** for an indirect object to be placed in the sentence.
- The indirect object is a **person** or a **living being**.

Intransitive Verbs

A verb which **has no object** to receive the action, is known as an **intransitive verb**.

- An intransitive verb **completes** a sentence.
- It tells us something about the **subject** itself.

Examples:

2. The mouse squeaked.

subject

verb

Ask the question: The mouse squeaked **what or whom?**

Answer: **No answer**

The verb **squeaked** has no object. Therefore, it is an **intransitive verb**.

Verbs of Incomplete Predication

Some **intransitive** and **transitive verbs** require a word or group of words to help them complete the sentence.

Examples:

1. Roy **is** a good friend.

↓ ↓
subject intransitive
verb

The words **a good friend** help the verb complete the predicate or what it says about the subject.

Verbs of Incomplete Predication

Some **intransitive** and **transitive verbs** require a word or group of words to help them complete the sentence.

Examples:

2. The teacher **called** the **student** a genius.

↓ ↓
transitive **object**
verb

Question: The teacher called whom or what?

Answer: **student**

The words **a genius** describe the object and help the verb, **called** to complete what it says about its **object**.

Verbs of Incomplete Predication

A **verb** which requires a **word** or a **group of words** to **complete** the **predicate** or what it says about its subject or object, is called the **verb of incomplete predication**.

The **word** or **group of words** which helps the verb to complete what it says about its subject or object, is called the **complement of the verb**.

A **complement** here refers to something which helps to complete another thing.

Verbs of Incomplete Predication

Examples:

1. Roy **is** a good friend.

↓ ↓
verbs of complement
incomplete of the verb
predication

2. The teacher **called** the student a genius.

↓ ↓
verbs of complement
incomplete of the verb
predication

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Verbs of Incomplete Predication

When a complement describes the **subject** of a verb, it is known as a **subjective complement of the verb**.

An **intransitive verb** always takes a **subjective complement** since it has no object.

Verbs such as **be, become, seem, appear** are common examples of verbs of **incomplete predication of intransitive verbs**.

Verbs of Incomplete Predication

Do not confuse a **transitive verb of incomplete predication** and a **transitive verb with two objects**.

- The **objective complement** describes the **object** of a **transitive verb**. It cannot be **separated** from the verb.
- The **direct object** and **indirect object** of a **transitive verb** refer to **two unlike** or **separate** things or persons. They do not describe each other.

Verbs of Incomplete Predication

Examples:

1. Zizi **gave** the **book** in the evening.

↓
↓
↓
transitive
object
objective complement
verb

Question: Zizi gave **whom or what?**

Answer: **book**

The words **in the evening** describe the object **book** and help the verb to complete what it says about the object.

The verb **gave**, is the **transitive verb of incomplete predication**.

Subjective Complement

Examples:

1. The doll is beautiful.

↓ ↓
subject subjective complement

The verb *is*, is the intransitive verb of incomplete predication.

The word *beautiful* describes the subject and helps the verb complete what it says about the subject.

2. The mouse squeaked loudly.

↓ ↓
subject subjective complement

The verb *squeaked*, is the intransitive verb of incomplete predication.

The word *loudly* describes the subject and helps the verb complete what it says about the subject.

Objective Complement

When a complement describes the **object** of a verb, it is known as the **objective complement of the verb**.

Transitive verbs of incomplete predication take **objective complements**.

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Verbs such as **make**, **call**, **find** and **think** are common examples of **transitive verbs** which usually require a complement.

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Objective Complement

Examples:

2. The mother found the baby fast asleep.

transitive verb object objective complement

Question: The mother found *whom or what*?

Answer: baby

The words *fast asleep* describe the object and help the verb *found* to complete what it says about the object.

The verb *found*, is the transitive verb of incomplete predication.

Objective Complement

Examples:

1. The boxer **knocked** his **opponent** senseless.

↓ ↓ ↓
 transitive verb object objective complement

Question: The boxer knocked **whom?**

Answer: opponent

The word **senseless** describes the object and helps the verb **knocked** to complete what it says about the object.

The verb **knocked**, is the transitive verb of incomplete predication.

Verbs of Incomplete Predication

What did I learn today?

1. A **verb** is a word that describes an **action** or a **state of being**.
2. A **sentence** needs a verb for it to be a complete thought or idea. The **predicate** contains the **verb**.
3. An **action verb** denotes an **action** taking place **physically** or **mentally**. It tells us what a person or thing **does**.
4. There are two kinds of action verbs: **transitive verbs** and **intransitive verbs**.



Verbs of Incomplete Predication

What did I learn today?

8. The **noun** or **pronoun** which is **indirectly affected** by the action of a verb, is called the **indirect object** of the verb.
9. An **indirect object** comes **before** the **direct object** and shows **who** or **what** receives the direct object. A **direct object** is **required** for an indirect object to be placed in the sentence.
10. The **indirect object** of a verb answers the question, "**To Whom?**" or "**For Whom?**" after the verb.



Verbs of Incomplete Predication

What did I learn today?

5. A verb which takes an **object** to receive the action and complete the meaning of the sentence, is known as a **transitive verb**.
6. The **noun** or **pronoun** which **receives** the **direct action** or is **directly affected** by the action, is called the **direct object** of the verb.
7. The **direct object** of a verb answers the question, "**What?**" or "**Whom?**" after the verb.

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Verbs of Incomplete Predication

What did I learn today?

17. When a complement describes the **object** of a verb, it is known as the **objective complement of the verb**.
18. Transitive verbs of incomplete predication take **objective complements**.



Verbs of Incomplete Predication

What did I learn today?

14. The word or group of words which helps the verb to complete what it says about its subject or object, is called the **complement of the verb**. A complement here refers to something which helps to complete another thing.
15. When a complement describes the subject of a verb, it is known as a **subjective complement of the verb**.
16. An **intransitive verb** always takes a **subjective complement** since it has no object.

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Verbs of Incomplete Predication

What did I learn today?

11. A verb which **has no object** to receive the action, is known as an **intransitive verb**.
12. An intransitive verb **completes** a sentence. It tells us something about the **subject** itself.
13. A verb which requires a word or a group of words to complete the predicate or what it says about its subject or object, is called the **verb of incomplete predication**.

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Verbs of Incomplete Predication

What did I learn today?

19. Do not confuse a transitive verb of incomplete predication and a transitive verb with two objects.
- The objective complement describes the object of a transitive verb. It cannot be separated from the verb.
 - The direct object and indirect object of a transitive verb refer to two unlike or separate things or persons. They do not describe each other.

