

508.1 Transitive Verbs

A **transitive verb** (red) communicates action that is received by an object (green) that completes the meaning of the verb. (The subject is in italics.)

The *city council* **passed** a strict noise **ordinance**.

- **Active voice:** A transitive verb in the active voice directs the action from the subject to the object.

The *students* **protested** the noise **ordinance** with a noisy demonstration. (*Ordinance* receives the action of the verb *protested* from the subject *students*.)

- **Passive voice:** A transitive verb in the passive voice directs its action toward the subject.

The **ordinance was debated** by students and parents at a public meeting. (The subject *ordinance* receives the action of the verb *was debated*.)

NOTE: With a passive verb, the person or thing creating the action is not always stated.

The **ordinance was overturned**.
(It is not clear who did the overturning in this example.)

- A **direct object** receives the action of a transitive verb directly from the subject.

The boy **kicked his skateboard** forward. (*Skateboard* is the direct object.)

- An **indirect object** receives the action of a transitive verb, but indirectly. An indirect object names the person *to whom* or *for whom* something is done. (It can also name the thing *to what* or *for what* something is done.)

Then he **showed us his best tricks**. (*Us* is the indirect object.)

NOTE: When the word naming the indirect receiver of the action is in a prepositional phrase, it is no longer considered an indirect object.

Then he **showed his best tricks to us**.
(*Us* is the object of the preposition *to*.)

Verbals

A **verbal** is a word that is derived from a verb, has the power of a verb, but acts as another part of speech. Like a verb, a verbal may take an object, a modifier, and sometimes a subject; but unlike a verb, a verbal functions as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb. There are three types of verbals: *gerunds*, *infinitives*, and *participles*.

508.2 Gerunds

A **gerund** is a verb form that ends in *ing* and is used as a noun.

Swimming is my favorite pastime. (subject)

I began swimming at the age of six months. (direct object)

Because of swimming, I'm in good condition. (object of the preposition)

509.1 Infinitives

An **infinitive** is a verb that can be used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb.

To swim the English Channel.

If it were easy to swim in the ocean.

The urge to swim is strong.

509.2 Participles

A **participle** is a verb form that can be used as an adjective but also as a verb. It is often thought of as a "verb-adjective."

The **farmhands harvesting** the crops.

Harvesting functions as an adjective.

The **cribs full of harvested** crops.

Harvested functions as a participle.

Common Irregular Verbs

Present Tense	Past Tense	Past Participle
am, be	was, were	been
begin	began	begun
bite	bit	bitten
blow	blew	blown
break	broke	broken
bring	brought	brought
burst	burst	burst
catch	caught	caught
choose	chose	chosen
come	came	come
dive	dove	dived
do	did	done
drag	dragged	dragged
draw	drew	drawn
drink	drank	drunk
drive	drove	driven
drown	drowned	drowned
eat	ate	eaten
fall	fell	fallen
fight	fought	fought
flee	fled	fled
fly	flew	flown
forsake	forsook	forsaken
freeze	froze	frozen
get	got	gotten
give	gave	given