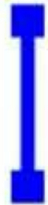


# **ERGATIVE VERBS**

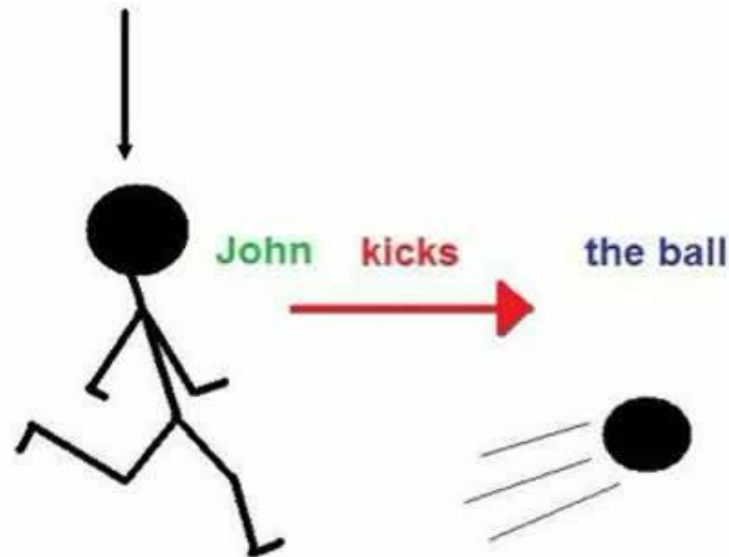
# TRANSITIVE VS INTRANSITIVE



followed by a direct object that answers the question what? or whom?



does not have a direct object



## **EXAMPLES**

**He opened the door.**

**(transitive)**

**Suddenly the door opened.**

**(intransitive)**

## SUCH VERBS OFTEN REFER TO:

- a) **Changes**: begin, break, change, crack, dry, end, finish, grow, improve, increase, slow, start, stop, tear.
- b) **Cooking**: bake, boil, cook, fry, roast, defrost, melt, simmer.
- c) **Position or movement**: balance, close, drop, move, open, rest, rock, shake, stand, turn.
- d) **Vehicles**: back, drive, reverse, sail, crash, fly, run.

SOME VERBS CAN BE USED IN THESE TWO WAYS  
ONLY WITH A SMALL SET OF NOUNS:

- a) **Catch**: belt, cloth, clothing, dress, shirt, trousers.
- b) **Play**: guitar, piano, violin, music.
- c) **Ring**: alarm, bell.
- d) **Show**: anger, disappointment, emotions, fear, joy.
- e) **Sound**: alarm, bell, horn.

## EXAMPLES:

I **caught** my dress on the fence.

My tights **caught** on a nail.

She **played** the piano.

The piano **was playing** in the hall.

SOME VERBS NEED ADVERBS WHEN THEY ARE  
USED WITHOUT AN OBJECT:

a) Dan sells books.

The book is selling well.

b) She has washed her skirt.

Such cloth washes easily.