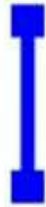


ERGATIVE VERBS

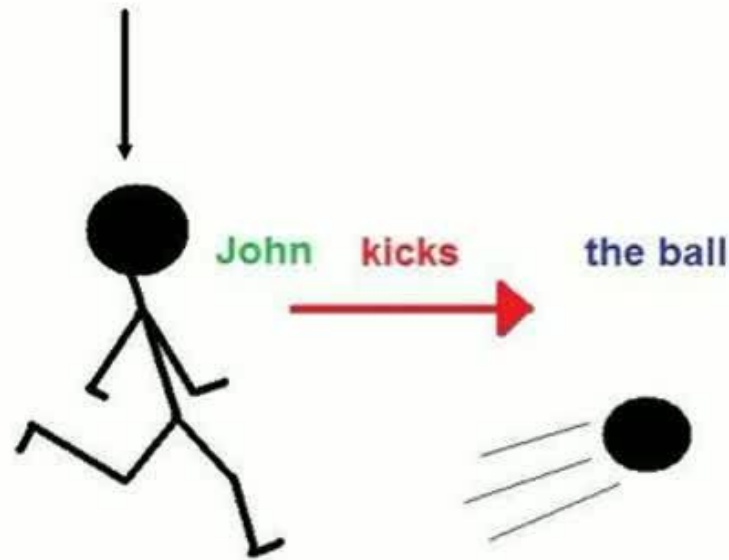
TRANSITIVE VS INTRANSITIVE



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.