

TRANSITIVE/INTRANSITIVE VERBS & ASSORTED ERRORS

- I. Transitive verbs are verbs which can take a direct object; in other words, they "transport" the action of the subject to the direct object.

Try using the verb *have* in a sentence that doesn't have a direct object. Can't be done, can it? That's because you must **have** something; you can't just **have**.

- II. Intransitive verbs are verbs which do not take a direct object.

Try using the verb *arrive* in a sentence which has a direct object. Can't do it, can you? That's because you don't ever **arrive** anything; you just **arrive**.

- III. Many verbs can be transitive in some sentences and intransitive in others.

In the sentence, "He eats lunch with me," the verb is transitive because it takes the direct object *lunch*. In the sentence, "He eats with me," the verb is intransitive because it has no direct object.

- IV. There is a relatively small group of verbs with which people have difficulty. Three of the most common will be discussed in this unit. They are *lie/lay*, *sit/set*, and *rise/raise*.

PRESENT

lay
lie

PAST

laid
lay

PAST PARTICIPLE

laid
lain

To lay is a transitive verb which can take a direct object; *to lie* is intransitive and cannot take a direct object.

I am laying the cup on the table.
She lies on the sofa.

I laid the book down.
We lay in the sun.

The hen has laid an egg.
He has lain in bed for a month.

raise
rise

raised
rose

raised
risen

To raise is a transitive verb which can take a direct object; *to rise* is intransitive and cannot take a direct object.

Vern is raising alfalfa this year.
The sun rises in the east.

He raised his eyebrows. We have raised greyhounds for years.
Al rose to make a speech. The temperature has risen since noon.

sit
set

sat
set

sat
set

To sit is an intransitive verb which cannot take a direct object; *to set* is transitive and must take a direct object.

We always sit on the porch.
Renee set a record today.

Joe sat in the third row. You have sat in front of that TV all day.
I set the cup on the table. Have you two se

I. THIS, THAT, THESE, and THOSE:

THIS and *THAT* are singular modifiers; *THESE* and *THOSE* are plural modifiers.

EXAMPLES: (wrong) These kind are my favorites.
 (right) This kind is my favorite. (Notice that everything agrees: modifier, subject, verb)

(wrong) These sort of shoes hurt my feet.
 (right) This sort of shoe hurts my feet. (Notice, everything agrees)

II. FEWER and LESS

FEWER is a plural modifier; *LESS* is a singular modifier. (*FEWER* modifies things that can be counted; *LESS* modifies things which cannot be counted.)

EXAMPLES: Jack had FEWER colds this year. (Can you count "colds"?)
 There is LESS snow this year than last. (Can you count "snow"?)
 This product contains LESS fat. (Can you count "fat"?)
 This cheese has FEWER calories. (Can you count "calories"?)

III. The following is a list of serious usage errors to avoid:

AIN'T	Once acceptable, but no longer so. Now replaced by <i>AM NOT</i> , <i>IS NOT</i> , or <i>ARE NOT</i> .
IT, HE, SHE DON'T	Misused for "it, he, or she <u>doesn't</u> "
SEEN for SAW	"I seen that movie" is incorrect. <i>SEEN</i> can only be used with <i>HAVE</i> : "I have seen that movie." In this context, the correct usage is "I saw that movie."
DOUBLE SUBJECT	Tracy she got an A on the test. (Just take out the <i>SHE</i>)
THEM	Misused for <i>THOSE</i> , as in "Give me them gloves," instead of "Give me those gloves." <i>THEM</i> is a pronoun in the objective case, never a modifier.
GOT	Misused for <i>HAVE</i> . "Do you got your homework?" is incorrect. "Do you have your homework?" is correct. <i>GOT</i> means RECEIVED, as in "I got an A on the test."
SHOULD OF	There is no such construction. It sounds like <i>SHOULD OF</i> when you say <i>SHOULD'VE</i> , but what you are really saying is <i>SHOULD HAVE</i> .
DOUBLE NEGATIVE	As in "I didn't do nothing." Should be "I did nothing," or "I didn't do anything."
is	<i>HARDLY</i> , <i>BARELY</i> , or <i>SCARCELY</i> are negative words that should not be used with another negative. "There wasn't hardly anyone on the tennis court," incorrect. It should be "There was hardly anyone on the tennis court."

TRANSITIVE/INTRANSITIVE VERBS & ASSORTED ERRORS: EXERCISE #1

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

DIRECTIONS: Correct the following sentences by rewriting them in the space provided below each sentence.

1. That there is my new jacket.
2. It really don't matter if you come or not.
3. We don't want no trouble here.
4. You should of seen that movie!
5. We don't got no assignment in math tonight.

DIRECTIONS: Circle the correct form of the verb in the sentences below.

1. The mother goose (lay, laid) her eggs in the tall grass.
2. The moon (raises, rises) in the night sky like a white balloon.
3. We (sat, set) in the rocking chairs on the front porch last evening.
4. Sally had (laid, lain) down to take a nap.
5. Winston always (raises, rises) to the occasion.

DIRECTIONS: Circle the correct word in parentheses.

1. The advertisers say there are (fewer, less) types of tar in these cigarettes.
2. He certainly ate enough of (that, those) (kind, kinds) of cookies.
3. Ted had (fewer, less) first-place votes than George.
4. You will have (fewer, less) interruptions in the library.
5. I have never seen (these, this) (types, type) of notebook before.
6. We have never eaten (these, this) kind before.
7. We have had (fewer, less) tourism in Alaska this year.

TRANSITIVE/INTRANSITIVE VERBS & MISCELLANEOUS ERRORS: EXERCISE #2

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

DIRECTIONS: Circle the correct word in parentheses.

1. The store does not sell (this, these) (type, types) of stoves any more.
2. Next time you bake a cake, use (fewer, less) eggs.
3. Next time you bake a cake, use (fewer, less) vanilla.
4. This beverage is less filling because it has (fewer, less) calories.
5. (That, Those) (sort, sorts) of candies upset my stomach.

DIRECTIONS: Correct the following sentences by rewriting them in the space provided below each sentence.

1. Do you got any homework in math tonight?
2. We didn't have barely any candy left after the kids finished
3. There wasn't hardly no people left on the beach.
4. You should of gone to the party.
5. It's really important to speak and write English good, ain't it?

DIRECTIONS: Circle the correct form of the verb in the sentences below.

1. The little girl (lay, laid) her toy gently on the shelf.
2. Sarah has (lain, laid) out in the sun too long without sunscreen!
3. The temperature has (raised, risen) by at least twenty degrees.
4. We (set, sat) the statue carefully on its platform.
5. Josephine (rose, raised) teacup poodles.

A transitive verb _____.

USAGE FINAL #2

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

(RAW SCORE: /71 GRADE: _____ POINTS: /20)**PART I:** *If necessary, correct the double negative in the sentence below.*

1. We couldn't hardly hear the speaker.
2. The car didn't stop for no stoplights.
3. Connie hadn't never flown in an airplane.
4. The injured horse couldn't barely walk.
5. Seniors don't have nothing to complain about.

PART II: *If necessary, correct the usage errors in the sentence below.*

1. We could of gone to see the Beach Boys, but we couldn't get tickets.
2. Do you got your homework for math class today?
3. Jack he said he seen the car speeding southbound on Main Street.
4. Has anybody seen my math book?
5. When we got to the house, there wasn't nobody there.

PART III: *If necessary, correct the following sentences in any way that's needed.*

1. With algebra you can solve this problem easy.
2. Football is played differently in Canada.
3. The driver turned quick at the corner and sped away.
4. Run quick and see if the mail is here.
5. Lynn's feelings were hurt bad when Sherry laughed at her.
6. I think she did very bad last night.
7. Does she always sing so good?
8. Mrs. Hoffman argued her point well.
9. Mike plays basketball almost as good as his brother.
10. I slept so well last night!

PART IV: Rewrite the sentences in the space provided. If it is correct, leave it alone.

1. Me and him went to the mall.
2. Her and her best friend are having a fight.
3. The test was retaken by John, Brandon, and me.
4. Give that book to me and him.
5. Them and us have to leave early.

PART V: In the space provided, write what job the capitalized pronoun is doing. (SUBJECT, PREDICATE NOMINATIVE, DIRECT OBJECT, INDIRECT OBJECT, OBJECT OF THE PREPOSITION)

1. Mr. Doyle is a man WHO likes young people. _____
2. Mr. Doyle is a man WHOM young people like. _____
3. The girl WHO spoke to me has just won a prize. _____
4. The girl WHOM I spoke to has just won a prize. _____
5. Can you tell me WHO that player is? _____

PART VI: Circle the correct words in parentheses.

1. Our gym class does (that, those) (kind, kinds) of exercises.
2. (This, These) (brand, brands) of tape (have, has) inferior sound quality.
3. Nurses wear (this, these) type of (shoe, shoes.)
4. Campers use (this, these) (sort, sorts) of tents.
5. Lola can perform (that, those) (sort, sorts) of back dive.

PART VII: Circle the correct modifier in parentheses.

1. We have (less, fewer) school holidays this year.
2. Unfortunately, there seems to be (less, fewer) volunteerism on my committee.
3. The commercials say there are (less, fewer) problems with this model.
4. This frozen dinner has (less, fewer) calories than the other.
5. We have had (less, fewer) inches of snow this year.

PART VIII: Choose which pronoun is correct. Then in the space provided, write what job that pronoun is doing.

1. Ladies (who, whom) lived during the fifteenth century painted their teeth instead of their nails.

2. Her older sister, to (who, whom) she sent the article, has moved to Santa Fe.

3. It was Napoleon (who, whom) invaded Spain in 1808. _____
4. Maureen finally guessed (who, whom) it was. _____
5. I visited with Mr. Winslow, (who, whom) was mowing his lawn. _____
6. Mr. Ross, (who, whom) I work for, owns two wheat farms. _____
7. Is there anyone (who, whom) plans to leave early? _____
8. He is a teacher (who, whom) I respect. _____
9. There is the man (who, whom) you were asking about. _____
10. Francis Drake, (who, whom) Queen Elizabeth I knighted, defeated the Spanish Armada.

PART IX: Circle the correct word in parentheses.

1. Each of the boys finished (his, their) hotdogs.
2. Both of my uncles went to (his, their) college reunion.
3. Either Janie or Tracy got an A on (her, their) exam.
4. Several of the players renegotiated (his, their) contracts.
5. A person should know what (he wants, they want) in life.

PART X Circle the correct word in parentheses.

1. George has (risen, raised) the flag every morning for ten years.
- 2.. My grandparents love to (set, sit) on their front porch in the cool of the evening.
3. Try not to kill the goose that (lies, lays) the golden egg!
4. Has Penelope (raised, risen) from her "bed of pain" yet?
5. He (lay, laid) a bet on Knuckleduster to win the third race.

ACTIVE & PASSIVE VOICE

Active and passive voice are terms you will hear a LOT when you write. It's important to know what active and passive voice is, when each is appropriate, and how to fix a passive sentence (because in writing the active voice is usually preferred).

I. ACTIVE VOICE: In general you'll hear that **active voice is better than passive**. What does it mean when a sentence is in **active voice**?

A sentence in active voice means that the **subject is performing the action of the verb**. Here are some examples:

The boy threw the ball.

My mother sings beautifully.

Watch your step. (This subject is the understood "you" but still performs the action.)

Use of the active voice generally makes your writing more vivid and clear.

II. PASSIVE VOICE: A sentence in passive voice has the **object of an action acting as the subject**. Many times this results in the subject not being in the sentence at all. Here are passive versions of the above sentences:

The ball was thrown by the boy. OR The ball was thrown.

A song was beautifully sung by my mother.

Steps should be taken carefully.

III. SPOTTING THE PASSIVE VOICE: Passive voice can be spotted (WAIT! That's passive! Let's try again ...)

You can spot passive voice by looking for this verb construction:

form of "to be" + past participle

("To be" forms can include *are, am, is, was, were, has been, had been, will be, will have been, being*, etc.)

Also, does the sentence end with a preposition phrase using the preposition *by*? Many passive voice sentences put the do-er of the action at the end of the sentence as the object of the prepositional phrase. Here's an example:

The exercise was written by the teacher. or The test was taken by the student.

IV. IS PASSIVE VOICE ALWAYS INCORRECT? Not always. It should be avoided in general, but there are times when it is necessary or appropriate. If you need to put the emphasis on the object rather than the subject. Let's say, for example, that you were writing a murder mystery, the

murder having taken place in a hotel room. The forensics teams is there, looking for clues. The following sentence -

The room had been cleaned an hour prior to the murder.

is preferable to

The maid had cleaned the room an hour prior to the murder.

because you don't want to bring attention to the maid in as a character in your story.

Or let's say you're writing an obituary. You might use the sentence -

The body was interred at Forest Lawn Cemetery.

rather than -

The gravediggers interred the body at Forest Lawn Cemetery.

I expect the reasons for the choice of the passive voice would be obvious in this case!murder having

V. WHY DO PEOPLE USE THE PASSIVE VOICE? You need to become aware of how people use language to shape the way the sentence is perceived. Because it's easy to leave the doer of the action out of a passive sentence, some people use the passive voice to avoid mentioning who is responsible for certain actions. Here are some examples:

Mistakes were made.

Tthe Acme Oil Company stipulates that a few gallons of crude might have been spilled.

ACTIVE & PASSIVE VOICE: EX. #1

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

DIRECTIONS: Identify whether each sentence is active or passive by writing A (active) or P (passive) in the space provided next to each sentence.

- _____ 1. The man painted the room a bright shade of blue.
- _____ 2. The book was put on the shelf.
- _____ 3. Cars were made on the factory line by the workmen.
- _____ 4. I bought a brand new car this weekend.
- _____ 5. We've all made mistakes.
- _____ 6. Errors were made along the way.
- _____ 7. The results are being tabulated as we speak.
- _____ 8. I'm writing a new book about my trials and tribulations in college.
- _____ 9. The refrigerator was plugged into the wrong socket.
- _____ 10. I am going to write my paper after lunch.

DIRECTIONS: In the space provided, re-write the above sentences. If they're passive, re-write them in the active voice; if the active, re-write them in the passive voice. Try to include all the elements in the original sentence, although when you re-write into passive voice, the subject frequently disappears. Because passive voice sentences are often unclear, a subject has to be inserted.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

ACTIVE & PASSIVE VOICE: EX. #2

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

DIRECTIONS: Identify whether each sentence is active or passive by writing A (active) or P (passive) in the space provided next to each sentence. Then re-write the sentence in the opposite voice on the lines provided.

_____ 1. At this evening's concert selected famous arias will be sung by our star soprano.

_____ 2. Beginning tomorrow morning, workmen will begin the removal of the windows.

_____ 3. Although Melissa took great care in washing the dishes, a treasured wine glass was broken.

_____ 4 Using Brad's telephone touchpad, all his spring semester classes were chosen in one hour.

_____ 5. The packages were wrapped and taken to the post office by our shipping clerk yesterday.

_____ 6. Using their state-of-the-art 3D glasses, the audience saw the new action thriller.

____ 7. The CEO and the Vice-President of Operations planned all the next year's conventions.

____ 8. The crumpled party dress was washed and ironed by the maid before the next evening.

____ 9. While the fascinated science class watched, the secret ingredient was stirred into the mixture.

____ 10. By ten a.m. of the third day of their camping trip, the tents had been packed neatly away.

OACTIVE & PASSIVE VOICE: EXERCISE #3

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

DIRECTIONS: *In the space provided, re-write the sentences below. If they're passive, re-write them in the active voice; if the active, re-write them in the passive voice. Try to include all the elements in the original sentence, although when you re-write into passive voice, the subject frequently disappears. Because passive voice sentences are often unclear, a subject has to be inserted.*

____ 1. Despite the massive public protests, the bill was passed by the Senate and the House.

____ 2. Even though the pitcher was trying to pitch a fair game, the batter was hit by a fast ball.

____ 3. Why did the chicken cross the road?

____ 4. Even though Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy didn't let on, they surprised Marmee with gifts.

____ 5. At the expense of the federal taxpayers, a fence has been built across our southern border.

____6 The outside "prejudice reduction" consultant damaged many relationships in our office .

____7. A huge new marketing plan has been put into place in our company.

____8. Some of today's champions on Civil Rights voted against the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

____9. Prior to 1920 women in the United States were denied the right to vote.

____10. While they were on the raft, Tom and Huck shielded each other from the evils of civilization.

ACTIVE & PASSIVE VOICE: TEST

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

RAW SCORE: _____ /100 = GRADE: _____ PERCENTAGE: _____

DIRECTIONS: *In the space provided, re-write the sentences below. If they're passive, re-write them in the active voice; if the active, re-write them in the passive voice. Try to include all the elements in the original sentence, although when you re-write into passive voice, the subject frequently disappears. Because passive voice sentences are often unclear, a subject has to be inserted.*

_____ 1. Two key findings are indicated by the results of this test.

_____ 2. Researchers have found that heart disease is the leading cause of death in the USA.

_____ 3. Why did you pack my stuff and leave it on the front lawn?

_____ 4. Dr. Huang delivered the twins at 5:30 a.m. on May 5, 2010.

_____ 5. Before he left the theater the rock star was beseiged by screaming fans.

_____ 6. A souvenir of her trip to give to her nephew was purchased by Nikki

____ 7. Before the test began, the students read the directions very carefully.

____ 8. The U.S. Constitution was signed on September 17, 1787.

____ 9. Witnesses saw a man wearing a hooded sweatshirt and jeans leaving the scene of the crime.

____ 10. As a result of our baseball game, Mrs. Hawkins' window was broken.

____ 11. The girl sitting next to me was asked to share her notes from the prior lecture.

____ 12. When the bell rang, the teacher told the class that they could leave.

____ 13. When were you planning to tell me about the broken vase?

____ 14. The man carrying the marked \$100 bills finally admitted that he had stolen them.

____ 15. The college athletic department has awarded James a full-ride scholarship for soccer.

____ 16. The Christmas money had been saved by the children all year long.

____ 17. Mrs. Dragonbottom's sarcasm had been patiently endured by the students for a month.

____ 18. The drama class presented their spring play *The Crucible* for the student body.

____ 19. My senior class trip began with a tour of D.C. which was taken by everybody in the group.

____ 20. In ancient times punctuation wasn't used, which makes their writing hard for us to read.
