

Categories of verb

Sentences such as *The girl is now a student* and *His brother grew happier* which have subject complements, have INTENSIVE verbs and all other sentences have EXTENSIVE verbs. The latter are INTRANSITIVE as in: *It rained steadily all day.*

Extensive verbs are otherwise TRANSITIVE. All transitive verbs take a direct object as: *John carefully searched the room.*

Some permit an indirect object, and these will be distinguished as DITRANSITIVE as: *He had given the girl an apple.*

A few verbs take an object complement and these are among the verbs referred to as COMPLEX TRANSITIVE as: *They make him the chairman every year.* The rest are MONOTRANSITIVE.

When verbs do not admit the progressive, as in *The girl is now a student at a large university*, they are called STATIVE. When they admit it, as in: *It was raining steadily all day*, they are called DYNAMIC.

Exercise 8

The following terms can be used with reference to verbs:

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|-------------|----------------------|
| a intensive | e intransitive |
| b extensive | f monotransitive |
| c stative | g ditransitive |
| d dynamic | h complex transitive |

Indicate, by the letters *a, b, c*, etc., which of those terms could be applied to the verbs as they are used in the sentences below. Note that more than one label could be used in every case.

- 1 Do you understand the question?
- 2 English and German are separate languages.
- 3 He appeared rather worried.
- 4 The mist is disappearing slowly.
- 5 I see¹ what you mean².
- 6 You aren't looking in the right direction.
- 7 He offered her his hand hesitatingly.

- 8 Bertrand is becoming rather a bore.
- 9 Susan chooses her clothes sensibly.
- 10 Her mother made her that dress well.
- 11 We elected him President unanimously.
- 12 His election made him very conceited.