

Intransitive and Transitive Verbs (*sit/set, lie/lay, rise/raise*)

*An **intransitive verb** does not need a direct object in order to make sense.

example: I sit down.

(‘down’ is not a direct object¹, it is a modifier² describing *how* I sit)

example: I lie on the floor.

(‘on the floor’ is not a direct object, it is a modifier describing *where* I lay)

example: I rise in the morning.

(‘in the morning’ is not a direct object, it is a modifier describing *when* I rise)

*A **transitive verb** needs a direct object in order to make sense.

example: I set the book down.

(‘the book’ is a direct object – what do I set down? I set *the book* down. – without the object the sentence makes no sense)

example: I lay the baby in the crib.

(‘the baby’ is a direct object – who do I lay in the crib? I lay *the baby* in the crib.)

example: I raise my hand.

(‘my hand’ is a direct object – what do I raise? I raise *my hand*.)

¹a **direct object** is a noun, pronoun, or group of words serving as a noun which receives the action of a verb

²a **modifier** is a word or group of words that describe other words, phrases, or clauses

Intransitive (no direct object)

Present Tense	Past Tense	Past Participle	Present Participle
sit/sits	sat	sat	sitting
lie/lies	lay	lain	laying
rise/rises	rose	risen	rising

Examples:

Present: He sits on the stool.

Past: She lay down yesterday for a nap.

Past Participle: I have risen.

Present Participle: I am sitting.

Transitive (with a direct object)

Present Tense	Past Tense	Past Participle	Present Participle
set/sets	set	set	setting
lay/lays	laid	laid	laying
raise/raises	raised	raised	raising

Examples:

Present: I set the cup down.

Past: I laid the book there yesterday.

Past Participle: She has raised her glass.

Present Participle: He is setting the dish over there.