

## Categories of Verb

### 1. Linking Verbs:

Linking verbs connect the subject of a sentence with its Complement. The Subject Complement is an adjective phrase as in these examples:

- The cyclist *appears* weary.
- The apprentice *looks* careful.
- The driver *seemed* extremely nervous.

Some of the common linking verbs are *seem, appear, become, grow, remain, taste, look, feel, smell, sound, get, continue, and go.*

The Subject Complement with the such linking verbs as *become, remain, and seem* can be an adjective phrase or a noun phrase, and with *make* is only a noun phrase as in:

- The boy *remained* silent.
- The weather *became* warmer.
- John *will not remain* a student.
- He *will become* an engineer.
- He *will make* a good engineer.

**Note** that the Subject Complement with some linking verbs can be a noun clause, as in these examples:

- It *appears* that all the files have been deleted.
- The survey *appears* to contradict motor industry claims.

### 2. The Verb Be

The verb be requires a subject complement which can be an adjective phrase or a Noun phrase.

- Is* Amy married? Yes, she *has been* married for ten years.
- I'm busy.
- The food *is* poisonous.
- It *was* they.
- His wife *is* a doctor
- Sandy *must have been* the culprit.

Adverbials can go after the verb be. Consider the following examples:

- The children *are* in bed.
- The game *will be* at three o'clock.
- He *'ll be* here in half an hour.

### 3. Intransitive Verbs

An intransitive verb is self-sufficient; it can stand alone with its subject. It does not take an object.

- The sportsman *fished*.
- The sportsmen *were fishing*.
- Jack *left* early.
- I'm sorry-please, *don't cry*.
- Jack Cade does not *appear*.

### 4. Transitive Verbs

Transitive verbs fall into three categories:

#### a. Monotransitive Verbs

A monotransitive verb takes an object, that is, it only takes one object.

- What *is* that boy *reading*? He *is reading* a newspaper.
- Both soldiers *saluted* the colonel.
- They *found* each other.
- Mrs. Grundy *grew* roses every year.
- I *don't know* who he is.

#### b. Ditransitive Verbs

Ditransitive verbs take two objects. These two objects are called, in order, *the indirect* and *the direct object*.

**Note:** The *indirect object* may often be replaced by a *prepositional phrase* beginning with *to* or *for*, or occasionally with *a different preposition*.

- He *sold* the student a ticket. (S V Oi Od)
- He *sold* a ticket to the student. (S V Od A)
- He *built* them a playpen. (.....)
- He *built* a playpen .....them. (.....)

- She *played* me a game of chess. (.....)
- She *played* a game of chess .....me. (.....)
- They *asked* her a question. (.....)
- They asked a question ..... her. (.....)

Some of the common ditransitive verbs are *give, make, find, tell, buy, write, send, ask, play, build, teach, assign, feed, offer, throw, hand, pass, sell, pay*.

### **c. Complex Transitive Verbs**

A complex transitive verb requires both a direct object and an object complement. The object complement can be a noun phrase or an adjective phrase. The verbs *elect, choose, make, appoint, find, declare, name, consider, and imagine* are examples of this type.

- He *appointed* Ruth secretary. (Co is an NP)
- The committee *declared* Isabelle the winner. (Co is an .....)
- I *consider* all the students my friends. (Co is an ....)
- I *consider* them friendly. (Co is an .....)
- This movie made him a star. (Co is an .....)
- His attitude made him very unpopular with colleagues. (Co is an .....)