

## Completing the Idea

As stated earlier, a simple sentence must contain a **subject**, a **verb** and a **complete idea**. This means that while the basic components of a sentence are the subject and verb, the sentence might need more than this to make sense.

Here are some examples of subjects and verbs joined together to create sentences:

**Mario runs.**

**Marcy writes.**

**Mildred paints.**

**Michael dances.**

**Mona lifts.** (Wait a minute! This last sentence does not make sense. What does Mona lift?)

Unlike the other sentences above, *Mona lifts* does not create a complete idea of the action the subject is doing. In this case, the sentence requires an **object noun** to complete its meaning.

Example: **Mona lifts weights.** (The object noun of this sentence is *weights*).

The **object** of a sentence (the object noun and any adjectives describing it) usually occurs after the verb. If the subject is the *doer* of the action, then the object is the *receiver* of the action.

Consider the sentence, **Trina scolds her naughty child.**

**Trina** is the **subject** of the sentence. She is doing the action of scolding.

**Naughty child** is the **object** of the sentence. The child is receiving the scolding.

How can you tell when a sentence requires an object? It depends on the verb.

Some verbs are **intransitive**—they **do not require an object** to make sense.

Other verbs are **transitive**—they **do require an object** to make sense.

Here is a list of subjects paired with either transitive or intransitive verbs. For each transitive verb, add an object so that the sentence makes sense.

1. **John surfs**
2. **Larry goes**
3. **Melissa rides**
4. **Chandra likes**
5. **Isabel was reading**
6. **The dog chases**
7. **Obachan speaks**