

REFERENCE VOCABULARY LISTS FOR TEACHERS AND LEARNERS OF ENGLISH

TRANSITIVE VERBS WITH NOUN OBJECTS

For use in the activities suggested in this booklet or in other verb phraseology or grammar lessons, here are reference lists for teachers and learners. Designed for language learners from high beginning to advanced levels of proficiency, the lists contain a large number of the commonly-used transitive verbs included in popular English language-learner dictionaries. Some of the noun and pronoun objects that come most quickly to mind follow each verb in parentheses. Permission has been granted to the purchaser of this booklet to make educational use of the lists, to project them onto an overhead screen, and/or to reproduce them for distribution to language students.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF COMMON TRANSITIVE VERBS + THEIR OBJECTS IN CONVERSATIONAL AMERICAN ENGLISH

1. accept (an apology, bribes, gifts, invitations, offers, the truth)
2. accomplish (a mission, tasks, goals, nothing)
3. achieve (success, aims, goals, objectives, purposes, recognition, results, fame, perfection)
4. acknowledge (the truth, an opinion, someone's presence)
5. acquire (skills, knowledge, a business, territory, control, property)
6. address (an envelope, an audience, a crowd, a problem, an issue)
7. adjust (a clock, a TV set, controls, car parts, your life style, your schedule, a TV set)
8. admit (a crime, the truth, mistakes, nothing, one person)
9. adopt (a child, the customs of a culture, change, a pen name, a new method, an idea)
10. advertise (products, services, an apartment, a house, a job, your skills)
11. advise (students, clients, customers, patients, people, caution,)
12. advocate (a cause, new laws, reform, healthy eating, the death penalty)
13. affect (your health, your life, your future, other people, the economy, a relationship)

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF COMMON TRANSITIVE
VERBS + THEIR OBJECTS
IN CONVERSATIONAL AMERICAN ENGLISH, *Continued*

14. afford (purchases, new things, a house, a car)
15. alienate (your family, relatives, other people)
16. alleviate (symptoms, suffering, pain, anger)
17. allow (smoking, animals, eating)
18. amuse (children, a pet, people, an audience, a crowd)
19. analyze (a problem, a situation, an event, a substance, a personality)
20. anger (people, family members, someone)
21. answer (a question, a letter, the telephone, an e-mail, a call)
22. anticipate (an event, a celebration, a change, a decision)
23. applaud (a decision, a performer, an entertainer, a speaker)
24. appreciate (good good, music, your help, an opportunity, a favor)
25. approach (a person, an animal, a subject, a situation, a problem)
26. approve (a plan, a contract, an agreement, actions, behavior)
27. arrest (a criminal, a suspect, a thief, someone, a person, some people)
28. ask (a question, a favor, someone)
29. assume (responsibility, office, a position)
30. attach (wires, proof, documentation, property)
31. attack (an opponent, the enemy, a country, a fortress)
32. attend (school, classes, meetings, a play, a concert, services, church)
33. attract (attention, a crowd, tourists, travelers, people)
34. avoid (trouble, traffic, confrontation, arguments, crowds, people)
35. award (a prize, money, a contract)
36. balance (a checkbook, a ball, weights, forces, pros and cons)
37. barbecue (meat, ribs, chops, fish, vegetables, food)
38. bathe (a baby, a dog)
39. bear (children, fruit, news, a grudge, a burden)
40. beat (an egg, a drum, an opponent, another team)
41. begin (a project, a job, a book, a course, a new life)
42. believe (a rumor, a lie, a myth, the truth, a person)
43. benefit (a cause, a charity, the environment, someone else)
44. betray (a confidence, a friend, your country, your family)
45. bind (a book, a package, a wound)
46. bite (your tongue, someone's arm, the bullet, the dust)
47. bleach (hair, clothing, fabric)
48. blend (ingredients, sugar and butter, flour and eggs)
49. blink (your eyes, the headlights of your car)
50. block (traffic, a door, a street, progress, a view)

51. benefit (a cause, a charity, the environment, someone else)
52. betray (a confidence, a friend, your country, your family)
53. bind (a book, a package, a wound)
54. bite (your tongue, someone's arm, the bullet, the dust)
55. bleach (hair, clothing, fabric)
56. blend (ingredients, sugar and butter, flour and eggs)
57. blink (your eyes, the headlights of your car)
58. block (traffic, a door, a street, progress, a view)
59. blow (your nose, a horn, a trumpet, your stack, a deal, a test)
60. boil (water, milk)
61. bomb (the enemy, a target)
62. book (a room, a hotel suite, a criminal, a suspect, an arrested person)
63. bore (a hole, a tunnel, a class, an audience, conversation partners)
64. borrow (money, cash, books, equipment)
65. break (a window, your arm, your leg, a promise, a vow, a commitment)
66. breathe (air, fumes, toxic wastes)
67. bribe (an official, the police, a judge, a politician)
68. build (a house, a building, a business, a reputation)
69. burn (a candle, a match, a cigarette, logs, garbage, paper, books, oil, fuel)
70. buy (groceries, clothes, presents, gifts, a house, real estate, land, a car, stocks)
71. call (a friend, a cab, a meeting, information, long-distance)
72. carry (groceries, packages, things, a heavy load, passengers, freight, products)
73. catch (a ball, a cold, a thief, a mouse, a train, a plane, a bus)
74. cause (a fire, an accident, a problem)
75. chair (a committee, a meeting)
76. change (a diaper, your mind, a plan, clothes, the rules, seats, places, a dollar bill)
77. chase (a car, a thief, rabbits)
78. check (your English, grammar, spelling, your exam answers, your coat)
79. chew (gum, food, a bone, tobacco)
80. choose (a color, a dress, a political candidate, a partner)
81. claim (property, your luggage, a reward, recognition)
82. clap (your hands)
83. classify (information, plants, things)
84. clean (a fish, your plate, the windows, a room, house)
85. climb (steps, stairs, a tree, a ladder, the corporate ladder, a hill, a mountain)
86. clip (an article, an ad, sheep, your hair, bushes, plants)
87. close (a window, a door, a box, your mouth, a deal)
88. clothe (a doll, a baby, children, your family)
89. commit (a crime, murder, a felony, a serious blunder)
90. compare (numbers, estimates, similarities, differences, two or more things)

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF COMMON TRANSITIVE VERBS + THEIR OBJECTS IN CONVERSATIONAL AMERICAN ENGLISH, *Continued*

91. compromise (your principles, your beliefs, a reputation)
92. confess (a crime, your sins)
93. consider (your options, the choices, your decision)
94. consult (an expert, a counselor, a psychologist, a doctor, a lawyer)
95. continue (a course of action, a discussion, a conversation, a case)
96. contribute (money, time, blood)
97. convict (a defendant, a suspect, a criminal)
98. cook (food, a meal, breakfast, lunch, dinner, meat, bacon and eggs, vegetables)
99. cool (a room, a house, a building, a pie, your heels)
100. copy (a paper, a document, an article, a report, someone else's work)
101. correct (mistakes, errors, your paper, a test, an exam, your vision)
102. cost (money, a lot, an amount, a small fortune, lives)
103. count (money, dimes, quarters, your change, items, votes, sheep)
104. crack (a nut, a mirror, a window, a whip, a code, a police case)
105. create (a piece of art, a picture, a poem)
106. cross (the street, your legs, two plants, two animals)
107. cure (a sickness, a disease, the common cold, patients, meat, wood)
108. cut (meat, vegetables, your finger, hair, prices, a scene, corners, your losses)
109. damage (a car, houses, property, plants, someone's reputation)
110. deal (cars, drugs, a blow)
111. decide (an issue, a case)
112. decorate (a room, a house, a dance hall, an auditorium, a gym, a soldier)
113. deduct (your costs, your expenses, an amount)
114. dedicate (a building, a park, your life, a book)
115. defeat (the enemy, an opponent, the incumbent, a political candidate)
116. define (a word, the responsibilities of a job)
117. defrost (a refrigerator, a freezer, frozen food, the windshield of a car)
118. deliver (a message, a package, newspapers, a baby, a speech, a blow)
119. demand (your rights, attention, an answer, repayment of a loan)
120. deposit (money, your paycheck)
121. design (dresses, clothes, houses, buildings, books)
122. destroy (homes, houses, property, hope, illusions)
123. develop (film, your vocabulary, your skills, a friendship)
124. dig (a hole, a ditch, a tunnel)
125. dilute (alcohol, paint, an argument)
126. direct (traffic, a movie, a scene, an orchestra)
127. discover (a cure, a new continent, land, oil, gold, errors)
128. distribute (papers, leaflets, propaganda, products)
129. divide (a pie, a class, a number, the work)
130. do (a job, work, chores, laundry, a favor, assignments, a report, your hair, time)

131. doubt (a friendship, the truth, a person's story, an explanation)
132. draw (a picture, a sketch, an illustration, blood, tourists, laughter, a comparison)
133. drink (water, milk, juice, soda pop, soft drinks, beverages, coffee, tea, alcohol)
134. drive (a car, a van, a taxi, a cab, a truck, a vehicle)
135. dry (your hands, wet clothes, the laundry, your hair, the dishes)
136. duplicate (a key, an original document, a letter, a painting, a photo, an experiment)
137. dust (furniture, shelves, bookcases)
138. eat (food, meals, breakfast, lunch, dinner, supper, a snack, vegetables, meat)
139. elect (a president, a vice president, senators, representatives)
140. empty (a box, the dishwasher)
141. enjoy (a movie, a meal, a party, a trip, an experience, a conversation, good health)
142. enter (a room, a house, a building, a tunnel, a contest, a discussion, data)
143. entertain (children, an audience, friends, guests, people)
144. establish (a company, a school, an organization, someone's innocence)
145. exchange (telephone numbers, glances, money, merchandise, gifts)
146. exercise (a horse, your muscles, your rights)
147. exhibit (art, products, your skills)
148. exit (a room, a house, a building, a plane)
149. expect (a telephone call, an apology, a baby)
150. export (products, goods, things, fruit, coffee, wheat)
151. face (an opponent, the audience, the camera, danger, facts, the truth)
152. fail (a quiz, a test, an exam, an examination, a subject, a student)
153. fear (poverty, loneliness, people, violence, crime, attacks, ghosts, death)
154. feed (birds, pets, an infant, a baby, children, a family, a person's ego)
155. fight (a battle, a war, an enemy, evil, illiteracy, an epidemic)
156. fill (a glass, a cup, a tooth, a room, an auditorium, a house, a position, an opening)
157. find (a quarter, a coin, your glasses, your keys, oil, your soulmate)
158. finish (a task, a job, a project, your homework, an assignment, a book, school, a race)
159. fire (a shotgun, a rifle, a cannon, an employee, a worker)
160. fix (a car, an appliance, a machine, supper, a drink, an election, a race, a contest)
161. flood (the basement, the cellar, a house, the engine of a car)
162. fly (a plane, a jet, an aircraft, a spacecraft, a flag, a kite)
163. fold (laundry, sheets, a piece of paper, a chair, a table, your hands)
164. foresee (the future, an event, a disaster, difficulties, problems, trouble)
165. form (a sculpture, a committee, an opinion)
166. frame (a picture, a house, an agreement, an innocent person)
167. free (a prisoner, a colony, a country)
168. freeze (water, leftovers, your fingers)
169. fulfill (a hope, a promise, a dream, an obligation, your duty, requirements)
170. gain (weight, an advantage, experience, knowledge)

171. get (a letter, a present, a gift, cash, a prize, recognition)
172. grade (papers, tests, exams, speeches, performances, students, a road)
173. grind (wheat, coffee, meat, lenses, glass, your teeth)
174. grow (plants, flowers, crops, vegetables, a beard, a mustache)
175. guarantee (quality, success, delivery, satisfaction, freedom of speech)
176. guard (a house, a building, a bridge, a secret, a prisoner, a border)
177. guess (an amount, an answer)
178. hatch (an egg, a plan, a plot)
179. have (food, a meal, fun, a good time, a class, an appointment, a headache, doubts)
180. hear (music, noise, ringing, news, gossip, a rumor)
181. heat (water, soup, a room, a house, a building)
182. help (customers, children, students, victims, people)
183. hide (a present, a key, a secret, the truth, money, a fugitive)
184. hit (a ball, a tree, the brakes, the roof)
185. hold (a baby, a discussion, a meeting, your breath, office, an election, an event)
186. hunt (animals, deer, game, bargains, criminals)
187. hurt (your leg, yourself, someone's feelings, your chances)
188. identify (birds, plants, trees, a suspect, a criminal, a body)
189. illustrate (a book, a magazine article, a principle)
190. imitate (a person's accent, behavior, other people)
191. impeach (a president, an elected official, the accuracy of a report)
192. impersonate (a police officer, a doctor, a celebrity, someone else)
193. impress (interviewers, a committee, the boss, your family, friends)
194. improve (your English, your understanding, your health, yourself)
195. increase (production, rates, prices, speed, population)
196. influence (children, young people, public opinion, decision-makers)
197. inhale (fresh air, cigarette smoke, pollution)
198. install (telephones, wires, plumbing, heating, appliances, officers)
199. instigate (an investigation, a search, a riot)
200. insure (a car, property, a house, good health)
201. interrupt (a program, a show, a telephone call, a conversation)
202. invite (guests, questions)
203. iron (clothes, sheets, tablecloths, a shirt, a dress)
204. join (a group, a club, an organization, an association, other people)
205. justify (a mistake, an error, your actions, a rise in prices)
206. keep (photographs, a diary, a secret, a promise, an agreement, records, time)
207. kick (a football, a field goal, a bad habit)
208. kill (plans, time, an animal, a person)
209. knead (dough, clay, sore muscles)
210. know (an answer, the truth, a subject, the neighbors, people)

211. land (a plane, a deal, a good job, a big fish)
212. lay (an egg, a claim, carpeting)
213. lead (a band, a parade, an expedition, a group, a tour, a movement, a life)
214. learn (a subject, a language, English, a lesson, a tune, new skills)
215. leave (the room, the house, town, school, a job, home)
216. light (a match, a cigarette, a cigar, a pipe, a fire, a room)
217. lose (a game, a match, an argument, a fight, your mind, your way)
218. mail (a letter, a post card, a package)
219. make (a cake, coffee, noise, a phone call, promises, war, love, money, a living, friends)
220. manage (an apartment building, a business, a department, a team)
221. measure (objects, rooms, distance, the length, the width, the important)
222. meet (a friend, your future mate, conditions, requirements, a deadline)
223. memorize (words, names, poetry, telephone numbers, facts)
224. mix (flour and water, boys and girls, ingredients in a recipe, apples and oranges)
225. name (a baby, geographical features, a business, your price)
226. neglect (your work, your family, your health, responsibilities, your obligations)
227. obey (rules, orders, the law, your parents, authority figures, military officers)
228. occupy (your time, a position, a space, a room, an apartment, yourself)
229. open (a window, a door, a can, a package, a store, a book, your eyes)
230. operate (a machine, a car, a business)
231. oppose (an idea, a plan, a political candidate, the enemy)
232. organize (a list, a group, a union, a system, your thoughts)
233. owe (money, people, your creditors)
234. pack (groceries, a lunch, clothes, a suitcase, your luggage, your bags, a wound)
235. paint (a picture, a scene, an image, a wall, a room, a house)
236. pass (a place, another car, the butter, the salt, time, a test, judgment, a bill, a law)
237. pay (the cashier, the check, a bill, the rent, attention, your respects, a compliment)
238. peel (a banana, an apple, vegetables)
239. perform (a play, a musical piece, a ceremony, an operation, an experiment, your duty)
240. pick (fruit, flowers, a tune, your teeth, a lock, a safe, your brains, someone's pocket)
241. pitch (a baseball, a tent, camp)
242. plan (meals, a trip, a party, an event, a program)
243. plant (seeds, plants, flowers, a tree, a bomb, your feet)
244. play (a game, football, soccer, music, piano, the violin, a guitar, a role, a trick)
245. pop (a balloon, a bubble, the question)
246. practice (self-control, your skills, piano, law, medicine, a religion)
247. prepare (a book report, a speech, a meal, yourself)
248. present (a gift, an award, a medal, a speech, a play, your ideas)
249. preserve (wildlife, good relations, the public order, fruits and vegetables)
250. press (a button, clothes, trousers, a suit, 200 pounds, charges)

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF COMMON TRANSITIVE VERBS + THEIR OBJECTS IN CONVERSATIONAL AMERICAN ENGLISH, *Continued*

251. print (block letters, your name, newspapers, books, photographs, money)
252. produce (movies, films, a play, fruit, products, laughter, results)
253. program (a computer, a VCR—videocassette recorder)
254. propose (a plan, a new law, a toast, marriage)
255. publish (a newspaper, a magazine, a book, an announcement, the news)
256. push (a button, a product, a new brand, your luck)
257. question (a speaker, a witness, someone's motives, a decision, a person's honesty)
258. reach (an object, a thing, a place, a destination, agreement)
259. read (the newspaper, a magazine, a book, an article, a story, someone's thoughts)
260. recognize (a person, a new government, someone's rights)
261. record (temperature, music, a movie, numbers, changes, figures)
262. regret (your words, your actions, your behavior, the past)
263. rent (a room, an apartment, a car, a boat)
264. repair (a car, a watch, a machine)
265. repeat (a word, a phrase, a question, a speech, a conversation, a mistake, gossip)
266. report (an accident, a message, a problem, the news)
267. respect (the law, the speed limit, older people, yourself)
268. rest (a case, your eyes)
269. return (a book, a tool, merchandise, gifts)
270. review (a lesson, a chapter, the day's events, data, a movie, a book, a restaurant)
271. ride (a bicycle, a motorcycle, a horse, a mule, the waves)
272. risk (danger, harm, injury, your neck, death, money, your savings)
273. rock (a cradle, the boat)
274. rotate (the tires of a car, the players of a team, crops)
275. run (a machine, a store, a business, an errand, water, a race, a campaign)
276. save (money, space, time, energy, a document, your strength, your breath, lives)
277. sell (a car, a house, property, yourself, your ideas, products)
278. send (a letter, a package, a doctor)
279. serve (food, a meal, dessert, coffee, time, your country, a ball, customers)
280. set (a dislocated bone, the table, your hair, a record)
281. settle (your family, the West, your nerves, your stomach, a claim, a dispute, a lawsuit)
282. shoot (an arrow, a gun, a rifle, a rocket, a movie scene, a deer)
283. shut (the window, the door, your mouth)
284. smoke (cigarettes, cigars, a pipe, tobacco, marijuana, meat)
285. snap (twigs, your fingers, pictures)
286. soak (beans, dirty clothes, the ground)
287. soften (butter, someone's heart)
288. solve (a problem, an equation, a case, a puzzle, a mystery)
289. soothe (a baby, the pain, your nerves)
290. speak (a language, Chinese, the truth, kind words, your mind)

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF COMMON TRANSITIVE VERBS + THEIR OBJECTS IN CONVERSATIONAL AMERICAN ENGLISH, *Continued*

291. spend (time, money, energy)
292. spread (a tablecloth, a blanket, your wings, butter, the news)
293. squeeze (a lemon, an orange, a teddy bear, a rubber toy, someone's hand)
294. start (a car, a motor, a conversation, a book, a debate, trouble, a fire, a business)
295. state (facts, a problem, the truth, your opinions, your views)
296. stop (the car, smoking, work, the presses, payment)
297. strengthen (your back, your muscles, a law, resistance, your resolve)
298. stretch (a rubber band, your legs, muscles, fabric, your imagination, the budget)
299. strike (a child, a blow, a pole, a match, a bargain, gold, a balance)
300. suffer (a loss, a heart attack, pain, a defeat, a setback)
301. survive (an accident, a disaster, the cold, cancer)
302. take (the bus, the train, a cab, medicine, pills, a bath, a shower, advice, a chance)
303. teach (children, adults, students, classes, courses, subjects, math, morals)
304. tell (a story, the truth, the news, a secret, the difference)
305. translate (poetry, a book, languages)
306. try (something new, your hand, someone's patience)
307. turn (the page, the steering wheel, your ankle)
308. use (the telephone, equipment, a computer, tools, resources, your brain, people)
309. violate (a law, a promise, a shrine, someone's privacy, someone's rights)
310. wash (clothes, dishes, the car, your hands)
311. waste (time, money, energy, resources, food, electricity, an opportunity)
312. watch (television, TV, a parade, a sports event, a game, people, your step)
313. weigh (food, a baby, yourself, your words, possible alternatives, your choices)
314. welcome (people, strangers, friends, guests, new neighbors, new students)
315. wear (clothes, shoes, a hat, glasses, contact lenses, jewelry, a smile)
316. win (a contest, a game, a race, a prize, benefits, friends)
317. withdraw (money, funds, your application, support)
318. write (a note, a memo, a letter, a report, a poem, a story, an article, a book)

Here are some points to remember and/or remind your students of:

- The 318 verbs in the above lists were chosen because they are often used in their "transitive meanings"—that is, with noun or pronoun objects. The same verbs may also have "intransitive meanings"—uses in which no object is necessary or possible.
- There are many other verbs in the English language. Some of these are always intransitive. Others, like *seem* or *taste*, are "linking verbs" followed by adjectives.
- To master "phraseology" (to put words together well in their own speaking and writing), learners need a lot of *experience* with effective language in context—primarily listening to and reading fluent American English. Vocabulary use cannot be learned solely from lists. More effective is contact with and correction by educated (near-)native speakers.