

## What Is An Action Verb?

An **Action Verb** shows something being done. Some action verbs express physical action; others express mental action.

### Examples:

The catcher often **signals** to the pitcher. (physical action)

A good catcher **understands** the batter's technique. (mental action)

An action verb is called a **Transitive verb** when it is followed by a word or words that “answer” the question of *what* or *whom* is doing the action.

Cats **see** their prey in the dark.

In the sentence above, “see” is the action verb and “prey” answers the question “what do cats see.” This means the verb is Transitive since it *transfers* the action from “cats” to “prey.” The word “prey” is actually called the Direct Object, but this topic is for another day.

An action verb is called an **Intransitive verb** if it is followed by a word or words that do NOT “answer” the question of *what* or *who*.

Cats **see** well in the dark.

In the sentence above, the action verb “see” does not answer the question of *what* or *whom* the cats see, but instead answers the questions *how* and *where*. This means this verb does NOT transfer the action from the cats. Because the action is *not transferred*, it is called Intransitive.



Marathon de Paris--April 2014--Marie-Lan Nguyen—wikimedia.org

How many different actions can you see in this image? What are the *mental* actions?