

Instructional Application for Intransitive Verbs #1

Below is a list of intransitive verbs Perlmutter (1978:162-163) provided the following list of English unergative and unaccusative verbs:

Unergative predicates

- a. Predicates describing willed or volitional acts: *work, play, speak, smile, grin, frown, grimace, think, meditate, cogitate, daydream, skate, ski, swim, hunt, bicycle, walk, skip (voluntary), jog, quarrel, fight, wrestle, box, agree, disagree, knock, bang, hammer, pray, weep, cry, kneel, bow, curtsy, genuflect, cheat, lie, i.e. (tell a falsehood), study, whistle (voluntary), laugh, dance, crawl, etc.*
- b. Certain involuntary bodily processes: *cough, sneeze, hiccough, belch, burp, vomit, defecate, urinate, sleep, cry, breathe, etc.*

Unaccusative predicates

- a. Predicates expressed by adjectives in English: this is a very large class, including predicates describing sizes, shapes, weights, colors, smells, states of mind, etc.
- b. Predicates whose subjects are semantically Patient: *burn, fall, drop, sink, flood, slide, slip, glide, soar, flow, ooze, seep, trickle, drip, gush, hang, dangle, sway, wave, tremble, shake, languish, flourish, thrive, drown, stumble, trip, roll, succumb, dry, blow away, boil, seethe, lie (involuntary), sit (involuntary), bend (involuntary), etc.*

This category includes the class of “inchoatives” including: *melt freeze, evaporate, solidify, crystallize, dim, brighten, redden, darken, yellow, rot, decompose, germinate, sprout, bud, wilt wither, increase, decrease, reduce, grow, collapse, dissolve, disintegrate, die, perish, choke, suffocate, blush, open, close, break, shatter, crumble, crack, split, burst, explode, burn up, burn down, dry up, dry out, scatter, disperse, fill, vanish, disappear.*

- c. Predicates of existing and happening: *exist, happen, transpire, occur, take place, arise, ensue, result, show up, end up, turn up, pop up, vanish, disappear, etc.*
- d. Involuntary emission of stimuli that impinge on the senses (light, noise, smell, etc.):
shine, sparkle, glitter, glisten, glow, jingle, klunk, clang, snap, crackle, pop, smell, stink.
- e. Aspectual predicates: *begin, start, stop cease, continue, end, etc.*
- f. Duratives: *last, remain, stay survive, etc.*

(Kuno & Takami, 2004, p. 9-10)

Instructional Application #1 – Intransitive Verbs

Level : Adult English L2 learners

Proficiency Levels: Intermediate

Language form: Imperfect verbs

Language function: Express action

Functional theories of grammar – In applied linguistics more detailed explanation is needed for the intransitive verb use.

Students will identify and correctly use the imperfect tense forms. They have already covered nouns, and verb tenses.

Language objective: Students will be able to identify and use the intransitive verb in a variety of sentences.

Vocabulary: transitive, intransitive, causative, ergative, inchoative

Getting and keeping students engaged: Introduce transitive and intransitive verbs. Students will articulate main concept of direct object and no object.

Practice:

- Set expectation we will be able to use the intransitive verb today
- Introduce the definitions and PowerPoint #1 on the first type of intransitive verb
- Show the models of the sentences in the PowerPoint.
- Introduce the verb list handout of the intransitive verbs.
- Have students create their own sample and share with the class.

Integration:

Break students into groups to work on the Worksheet #1 using their verb lists.

Demonstrate proficiency:

Write sentences with the help of teacher and other students.

Complete a short quiz.

Instructional Application #1 Worksheet

A. Write 5 sentences using the intransitive verbs from the first section using an adverb or a prepositional phrase. (recall prepositional phrases begin with prepositions and adverbs usually take -ly)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

B. Use verbs with cognate objects for three sentences.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

C. Create 10 sentences with the intransitive verbs using 5 from section A. on the verb list and 5 from section B.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

D. Define these terms:

1. Causative _____

2. Inchoative _____

3. Ergative _____

4. Intransitive _____

5. Patient _____

Instructional Application #1 Quiz #1

A. Match these terms with the correct response:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. causative ____ | a. change of state |
| 2. inchoative ____ | b. experiencer |
| 3. ergative ____ | c. doesn't take an object |
| 4. intransitive ____ | d. responsible for the action |
| 5. Patient ____ | e. verb affects the subject |

B. Using the verb list write 3 sentences that use the intransitive verb and a cognate object:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

C. Write 7 sentences using verbs intransitively from the unergative list. You may use an adverb or a prepositional phrase following the intransitive.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____