



Ergative verbs can be used both transitively and intransitively.

The subject of the intransitive verb is the same as the object of the transitive verb.

When used intransitively they cannot take the passive voice.

Ergative verbs can be divided into several categories: Verbs suggesting a change of state: break, burst, form, heal, melt, tear, transform, change / Verbs of cooking: bake, boil, cook, fry / Verbs of movement: move, shake, sweep, turn, walk / Verbs involving vehicles: drive, fly, reverse, run, sail / Some other verbs: play, marry, calm down, qualify...

accelerate	crash	peel	split
accumulate	decrease	play	spread
adjust	detach	plunge	squeeze
age	develop	pour	stall
assimilate	dissolve	qualify	start
awake	divide	radiate	stop
bake	double	reflect	straighten
balance	drive	reform	strengthen
beat	drop	refuel	stretch
begin	eat	register	sweep
bend	empty	relax	tear
blow	end	rest	terminate
boil	evaporate	redouble	thaw
assimilate	expand	reflect	thicken
break	fill	reform	thin
brighten	finish	restart	tighten
bruise	flatten	return	touch
buckle	heal	rotate	transfer
build up	ignite	run	translate
burn	incline	sell	triple
burst	increase	separate	turn
change	integrate	settle	unfold
clear	lower	shorten	unroll
close	march	shut	unzip
combine	marinate	sink	vibrate
compress	marry	slide	weaken
connect	melt	slow down	widen
contribute	mix	sound	withdraw
cook	move	speed up	worsen
cool	open	spill	wrinkle up
condense	operate	spin	
co-ordinate	overheat	splash	

VERB	TRANSITIVE (verb has an object)	INTRASITIVE (verb has no object)
close	John closed the door.	The door closed.
boil	Mike boiled a pan of water.	The pan of water boiled.
break	I broke the glass.	The glass broke.
change	Susan changed her attitude.	Susan's attitude changed.
stop	He stopped his car.	The car stopped.
play	They were playing football..	They played well.
eat	I was eating a sandwich.	Don't talk while you're eating.

Intransitive verbs do not have a passive form. Intransitive verbs **do not** have a direct object after them.

The subject is doing the action of the verb and nothing receives the action.

Active form

Transitive - He closed the door.

Intransitive - The door closed.

Passive form

The door was closed (by him).

----- (no passive) / We do not know who closed the door.