

# Class Notes

Class: **VII**

Topic: **Finite & Non-finite verbs**

Subject: **English**

**Finite Verb** - Finite verbs change their forms when there is a change in the number or person of the subject. Finite verbs also have different forms in different tenses.

- Eg – a) She likes to play Badminton.  
b) Sport teaches you leadership skills.  
c) My mother wakes up at 5 am.

In the above sentences, likes, teaches and wakes agree with the number or person of the subject. Such verbs are called 'Finite verbs.'

**Non-finite Verb** - Non-finite verbs do not change their form when the number or person of the subject changes. There are mainly three types of non-finite verbs: infinitives, gerunds and participles.

- Eg – a) Reading is a good habit.  
b) It is requested to keep the phones in silent mode.  
c) The frightened boy jumped over the wall.

In the above sentences, the underlined words do not change with the number or person of the subject. Such words are called 'Non-finite verbs.'

Let's understand the types of Non-finite verbs -

- 1) **Gerunds** – Gerunds end in *-ing*. It performs the function of noun as well as well as a verb in a sentence. Eg- *skiing, reading, dancing, singing*, etc. Gerunds can also serve as subjects or objects of sentences. They can be created using active or helping verbs.

- Eg- a) I like swimming.  
b) We enjoyed their singing.  
c) Studying is one of Vishal's favourite things to do.  
d) My sister is really good at gardening.

The underlined words are gerunds.

- 2) **Participles** - A participle is a form of non-finite verb that is used in a sentence to modify a noun, noun phrase, verb, or verb phrase, and then plays a role similar to an adjective or adverb.

There are three types of participles –

- 1) **Present Participle** – It ends in ‘ing’ and expresses an action which is going on or not yet completed. Eg- a) She is cooking a special dish. b) My brother is writing an application.
- 2) **Past Participle** – It describes an action that has taken place in the past.  
It ends in ed, d, t, en or n  
Eg – a) She has forgotten her dialogue. b) He has burnt his finger.
- 3) **Perfect Participle** – It demonstrates that an action was completed in the past.  
Eg – a) Having finished the task, the workers left the office.  
b) The child, having found his mother, was again happy.  
c) Being robbed by the dacoits, the merchant lodged an FIR.

**3. Infinitives** - The infinitive is the basic form of a verb, usually followed by *to* (when it’s not, it’s called the bare infinitive). Thus, *to go* is an infinitive. There are several different uses of the infinitive. They can be used alongside verbs, as a noun phrase or in a question.

Function of Infinitives –

### With Other Verbs

The *to*-infinitive is used with other verbs -

- I am here to watch a good show.
- You already know that he’ll fail to complete the task.

We can also use multiple infinitives in a single sentence: “Today, I plan to run three miles, to clean my room, and to update my budget.” All three of these infinitives follow the verb *plan*. Other verbs that often come before infinitives include *want*, *convince*, *try*, *able*, and *like*.

### As a Noun Phrase

The infinitive can also be used to express an action in an abstract, general way: “To err is human”; “To know me is to like me.” No one in particular is completing these actions. In these sentences, the infinitives act as the subjects.

Infinitives can also serve as the object of a sentence. One common construction involves a dummy subject (*it*): “It was nice to meet you.”

### In Questions

Infinitives can be used in elliptical questions as well, as in “I don’t know where to go.”

### The Bare Infinitive

As we mentioned previously, the infinitive can sometimes occur without the word *to*. The form without *to* is called the bare infinitive (the form with *to* is called the *to*-infinitive). In the following sentences both *sit* and *to sit* would each be considered an infinitive:

- I want to sit on the other chair.
- I can sit here all day.

As we mentioned earlier, some verbs require the bare infinitive instead of the *to*-infinitive:

- The helping verb *do*
  - Does she dance?
  - He doesn't play.
- Helping verbs that express tense, possibility, or ability like *will, can, could, should, would, and might*
  - The bears will eat you if they catch you.
  - John and George might go to the dance.
  - You should give it a try.
- Verbs of perception, permission, or causation, such as *see, watch, hear, make, let, and have* (after a direct object)
  - Look at Shalini go!
  - You can't make me talk.
  - It's so hard to let someone else finish my work.

The bare infinitive can be used as the object in such sentences like "What you should do is make a list." It can also be used after the word *why* to ask a question: "Why reveal it?"

### Practice Questions - (to be done in English notebook)

Q. Identify the finite and non-finite verbs in the following sentences:

1. My little brother wants to be an actor.
2. She worked hard to pass the test.
3. I couldn't solve the problem.
4. To travel is the only thing on her mind.
5. Your duty is to cross the river without getting noticed.
6. The doctor is attending to the injured people.
7. She opened the door.
8. The students were asked to submit their assignments by Friday.
9. The teacher encouraged the students to work hard.
10. The dog wagged its tail to show its happiness.

Absolutely prepared at home.

