FUNCTION OF NON-FINITE VERBS

Non-finite verbs are verb forms that do not show tense or person. They are not conjugated to match a specific subject, and they can't function as the main verb of a sentence. Instead, non-finite verbs serve various other functions in sentences. There are three main types of non-finite verbs: infinitives, gerunds, and participles. Let's explore the functions of each:

1. Infinitives:

 - Infinitives are the base form of a verb, typically preceded by "to" (e.g., "to walk," "to eat," "to study").

 - Functions of infinitives:

  - To express purpose: Infinitives often explain why an action is performed.

   - Example: She went to the store to buy some groceries.

- After certain verbs: Infinitives are used after verbs like "want," "need," "hope," and "decide" to indicate what someone wants or intends to do.

- Example: He wants to visit the museum.

- As a subject or object: Infinitive phrases can serve as the subject or object of a sentence.

- Example: To learn a new language requires dedication. (Infinitive phrase as the subject)

- Example: She asked him to help her with the project. (Infinitive phrase as the object)

A bare infinitive, also known as a base infinitive, is the simplest form of a verb. In English, most infinitives are formed by adding "to" before the base form of the verb (e.g., "to go," "to eat," "to study"). However, in certain constructions and after specific verbs, the base form of the verb is used without "to," and this is referred to as the bare infinitive.

Common situations where bare infinitives are used include:

1. After modal verbs: Modal verbs such as "can," "could," "will," "would," "shall," "should," "must," and "ought to" are followed by bare infinitives.

- Examples:

  - She can swim.

  - You must go to the meeting.

2. After some causative verbs: Verbs like "make," "let," "have," and "help" are followed by bare infinitives when they are used to indicate that someone causes or allows another person to perform an action.

- Examples:

  - She made him clean his room.

  - They let us choose our seats.

3. After certain verbs of perception: Verbs like "see," "hear," "feel," and "watch" can be followed by bare infinitives when the subject of

the main verb is the same as the subject of the infinitive.

- Examples:

    - I saw him run.

    - She heard the birds sing.

4. After "rather" and "had better": In expressions like "I'd rather," "I had better," and "I would sooner," the bare infinitive is used.

- Examples:

    - I'd rather stay home tonight.

    - You had better call them.

Bare infinitives are used in these cases to maintain sentence clarity and to follow the grammatical rules associated with these specific constructions. In other situations, regular infinitives with "to" are used.

2. Gerunds:

- Gerunds are verb forms ending in "-ing" that function as nouns.

- Functions of gerunds:

- As the subject of a sentence: Gerunds can serve as the subject of a sentence.

- Example: Swimming is her favourite hobby.

- As the object of a verb: Gerunds can be the direct object of a verb.

- Example: I enjoy reading books.

- After prepositions: Gerunds often follow prepositions.

- Example: She is good at singing.

- As an object of possession: Gerunds can show that something belongs to someone.

- Example: I appreciate his **helping** me.

3. Participles:

- Participles are verb forms often ending in "-ing" (present participle) or "-ed" (past participle)

and can function as adjectives or within verb tenses.

   - Functions of participles:

   - As adjectives: Participles can describe nouns.

      - Example: The falling leaves covered the ground. (Present participle as an adjective)

      - Example: The broken window needs to be fixed. (Past participle as an adjective)

   - In verb tenses: Participles are used to form various verb tenses, such as the present continuous and past perfect.

      - Example: She is reading a book. (Present participle in the present continuous tense)

      - Example: They had eaten before the movie started. (Past participle in the past perfect tense)

In summary, non-finite verbs (infinitives, gerunds, and participles) play important roles in sentences, often as subjects, objects, adjectives, or to indicate purpose. Understanding how to

use these non-finite verb forms correctly contributes to clear and effective communication in English.

Difference between gerund and present participle-

A gerund and a present participle are both forms of verbs, but they are used in different ways in a sentence and serve different functions.

1. Gerund:

   - A gerund is a verb form that functions as a noun in a sentence.

   - It is created by adding "-ing" to the base form of a verb (e.g., "walking," "swimming," "reading").

   - Gerunds are used to name an action or activity, often as the subject or object of a sentence.

   - They can also be used as the object of a preposition (e.g., "She is good at singing.").

Examples:

- Walking is good exercise. (Here, "walking" is the subject of the sentence, functioning as a noun.)

- I enjoy reading books. (Here, "reading" is the direct object of the verb "enjoy," functioning as a noun.)

2. Present Participle:

- A present participle is a verb form that is also created by adding "-ing" to the base form of a verb (e.g., "walking," "swimming," "reading").

- Present participles are used in various ways within sentences, primarily to create verb tenses (such as the present continuous) and participial phrases.

- They can also function as adjectives when used to describe a noun.

Examples:

- She is walking to the store. (Here, "walking" is part of the present continuous tense, indicating an ongoing action.)

- The swimming pool is closed for maintenance. (Here, "swimming" is an adjective describing the type of pool.)

- Reading quietly, she enjoyed her book. (Here, "reading" is part of a participial phrase that describes what she was doing.)

In summary, the key difference between a gerund and a present participle is their grammatical function in a sentence:

- A gerund acts as a noun as well as a verb, representing an activity or action.

- A present participle is a verb form used in verb tenses, participial phrases, or as an adjective to describe a noun.