

Class Notes	
Class: VII	Topic: Finite and Non-finite Verbs
Subject: ENGLISH	

Finite Verbs

In a sentence, there is normally at least one verb that has both **a subject and a tense**. When a verb has a subject and a tense, it can be referred to as a finite verb.

Example:

We want Charlie to act as club secretary.

I like taking photographs of insects.

Coming home last night, I saw a deer run across the road.

Non-finite Verbs

A non-finite verb is a verb form that does not show tense. In other words, you cannot tell if a sentence is in the past tense, present tense, or future tense by looking at a non-finite verb.

Therefore, a non-finite verb is never the main verb in a sentence.

The present, past and perfect participles, the infinitives and the gerunds are the most common of these.

A verb is non-finite if it used

- Without the verb having a tense.

To open, tear off the tab. (infinitive)

Looking around, he noticed a letter on the floor. (present participle)

Worn out by the heat, they stopped for a drink. (past participle)

- With no agreement between the subject (if there is one) and the verb.

That plan failing, he gave up. (present participle)

Art is making something out of nothing and selling it. (gerund)

Our guests departed, we felt a little depressed. (past participle)

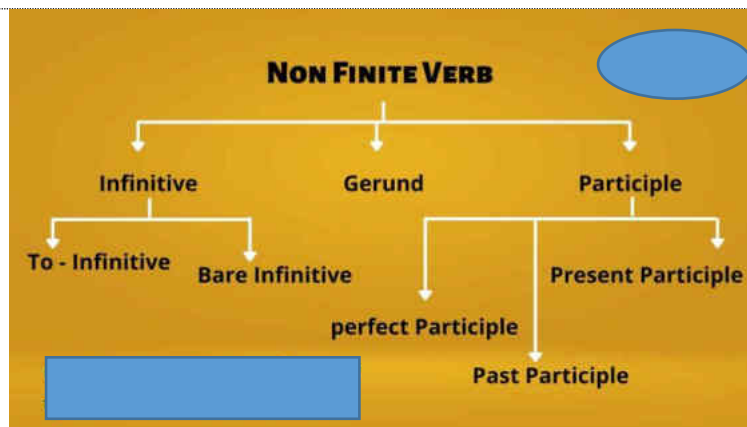
A compound verb is actually made up of one finite part, which is always the first auxiliary verb, while the remaining non-finite parts are the base form or the participles. In the following examples the finite part of the verb phrase is in red italic:

I may have been joking when I said that.

Helen was running around screaming.

I had been living in a dream for months.

Olivia is coming round at 6 o'clock this evening.



Non-finite Verbs

1. Infinitives: The infinitive verb is a non-finite verb that is formed by adding 'to' before the base form of a verb.

Example-

He likes **to play** piano.

They want **to go** home.

People gathered here **to hear** the news.

These infinitives are called as 'full infinitives'.

A bare infinitive is a verb form that is used without the word "to". It is also known as a bare verb or a bare-infinitive. For example

I let him **go**.

Let him **sit** there.

She made me **cry**.

I heard him **sing** a lovely song.

2. Gerunds: When 'ing' with the main verb works as a noun, it is called gerund. It is a verbal noun. All gerunds include a verb and -ing.

Example-

I saw him **playing**.

Swimming is a good exercise for our body.

My hobby is **reading**.

We are fond of **travelling**.

Gerunds can serve several functions in sentences. They can be used as:

1. **The Subject of a Verb**

Sleeping whole day is bad for your health.

Meditating calms your nerves.

2. **The Object of a Verb**

Roma loves **cooking**.

Tilak hates **talking**.

3. **Object of a Preposition**

I'm very good at **painting**.

I'm afraid of **swimming**.

4. **Subject Complement**

The best thing about my trip to Japan was **eating**.

A good way to lose weight is **exercising**.

3. Participles: A participle is a verb form that can function as an adjective or a verb. There are three types of participles: the present participle (ending "-ing"), the past participle (usually ending "-ed," "-d," "-t," "-en," or "-n") and the perfect participle (Having + V3).

Examples:

- A **stirring** dwarf we **do** allowance give before a **sleeping** giant.
(Here, there are two present participles functioning as adjectives.)
- Food **is** an important part of a **balanced** diet.
(Here, the past participle is functioning as an adjective.)
- Often, a participle heads up a participle phrase functioning as an adjective.
- **Drawing on my fine command of the English language**, I said nothing.
- **Connected" entirely by canals and footbridges**, the Dutch village of Giethoorn has no roads.
- Participles are also used to form verb tenses.
- I was **eating** beans by candle light for a decade.
(Here, a present participle helps to form the past continuous tense.)
- The man has **broken** the vase.
(Here, the past participle helps to form present perfect tense.)
- Perfect Participle: It shows that one action will happen after the other.
- **Having read** the story, they were amazed.
- **Having completed** the work, she laid down for rest.

Finite Verbs	Non-finite Verbs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finite verbs are used to represent tense, person or number. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-finite verbs have no tense.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finite verbs take the simple present and the simple past form of the particular verb. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-finite verbs can be used in their gerund, infinitive, present participle, past participle or perfect participle form.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finite verbs always agree with the subject performing the action in the sentence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-finite verbs do not agree with the subject in a sentence.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most often, the finite verb can be found next to the subject in a sentence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-finite verbs are sometimes found in the beginning of a sentence. In certain cases, the non-finite verb is found immediately after the finite verb in the sentence.

- A finite verb appears to be a part of an independent clause and can help the clause stand alone by making complete sense of what is being conveyed,

- A non-finite verb often constitutes a phrase and does not make sense when considered separately.

Ex A. Underline the finite and circle the non-finite verbs in the following sentences.

1. Robin went to the store to buy some pens.
2. The traffic policeman saw an old man sitting in the pavement.
3. The girl was carrying a bouquet in her hand.
4. I forgot to post the letter.
5. The patient left the hospital cured.
6. The sun having risen, we returned home.

Ex B. Identify the non-finite verbs.

1. Hunting is prohibited.
2. I need to go to sleep.
3. I saw him running.
4. Flying makes me nervous.
5. I find speaking stressful.
6. This is an interesting book.
7. I love the noise of falling rain.
8. He was hopeless at writing letters.
9. We have to submit our assignment by Friday.
10. To win the match was my dream.