

# CLASS NOTES

Class: VIII

DATE: 11.09.2020

Subject: English

Topic: Finite/ Non-finite verbs

There are mainly two types of verbs in English – finite and non-finite.

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.

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.**

## What is the Difference Between a Gerund and a Present Participle

Both a gerund and a present participle come from a verb, and both end in –ing. However, each has a different function. A gerund acts like a noun while a present participle acts like a verb or adjective.

*Example: snowboarding*

Snowboarding is fun! (gerund)

Right now, the athlete is snowboarding. (present participle) [verb]

He was snowboarding yesterday afternoon. (present participle) [verb]

*Example: exciting*

An exciting time was had by all. (gerund)

The exciting ride made the people scream. (present participle) [adjective + noun]

People enjoyed the exciting roller coaster. (present participle) [adjective + noun]

The roller coaster is exciting. (present participle)[be verb + adjective]

**Unlike a gerund, a present participle can act like an adjective that modifies a noun or follows the 'be' verb.**

Now YOU try: Look at the sentences below. Decide whether the underlined –ing word is acting like a noun, part of a verb, or an adjective. (Answers below)

1. What an amazing movie! I want to watch it again!
2. Speaking English well takes a long time.
3. He cares about getting a good job.
4. Shh! I am trying to sleep.
5. My friends and I were sitting in a café and talking.
6. The directions were very confusing.
7. They have been studying for a long time and want to take a break.
8. She loves traveling.

Answers: 1) adjective, 2) gerund, 3) gerund, 4) verb, 5) verb & verb, 6) adjective, 7) verb, 8) gerund

### How do you know if it's a participle or the gerund?

The easiest way to tell the difference between the gerund and the present participle is to look for the helping verb “be”. If you find a form of “be” followed by the -ing form, that’s the present participle.

For example: They’ve have been working for four hours. If the -ing form begins the sentence, or follows a verb or preposition, that’s the gerund. For example: Playing soccer is a lot of fun!

### ONLY FOR READING AND UNDERSTANDING REFERENCE

EXERCISE A- In the following sentences, state whether the verb given in the inverted commas is finite or non-finite.

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 err' is human.

5. Your duty is 'to cross' the river without getting noticed.

6. The doctor 'is attending' to the injured people.

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.

EXERCISE 2- Identify the finite and non-finite verbs in the following sentences and state whether they are infinitives, participles or gerunds.

1. Singing is his pastime.

2. I like to read.

3. It is easy to find faults with others.

4. Mother took out a damaged toy from the drawer.

5. Having done my homework, I went out to play.

6. Plucking flowers is forbidden.

7. Jumping over the fence, the thief escaped.

8. He left the tap running.

9. Are you afraid of speaking the truth?

10. Asking questions is a whole lot easier than answering them.

**Note-This material has been prepared at home**