



## Finite and Non-finite Verbs

### Introduction

This chapter explains the difference between finite and non-finite verbs, and introduces three types of non-finite verbs: infinitives, participles, and gerunds.

### Finite Verbs

A verb that changes its form according to the subject (person or number) and the tense is called a finite verb.

#### Examples:

- I eat a mango. (1st person, singular, present tense)
- She eats a mango. (3rd person, singular, present tense)

#### Characteristics:

- Changes with tense and subject.
- Acts as the main verb in the sentence.

**Examples of finite forms:** is, am, are, was, were, and modal auxiliaries (will, shall, can, may, etc.)

### Non-Finite Verbs

A verb that does not change with the subject or tense is called a non-finite verb.

#### Example:

- He wants to sing a song.
- He wanted to sing a song.

(The verb sing remains the same.)

### Types of Non-Finite Verbs:

1. Infinitive

2. Participle

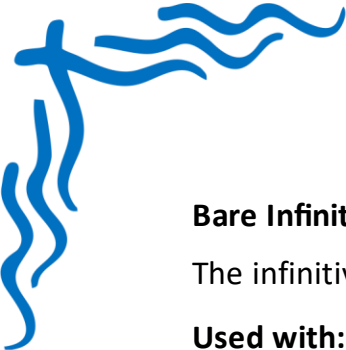
3. Gerund

### The Infinitive

The base form of the verb, usually with to before it.

#### Examples:

- I like to sleep.
- He wants to play.



### **Bare Infinitive:**

The infinitive without to.

### **Used with:**

- Modal verbs: can do, may go
- Certain verbs: let, make, see, watch, feel

### **Examples:**

- Let me go. (bare infinitive)
- Raj saw him steal the mobile. (bare infinitive)

## **The Participle**

Participle is part verb and part adjective. It acts as a verbal adjective.

### **Types:**

1. Present Participle (-ing form)
2. Past Participle (-ed, -en, -t, etc.)
3. Perfect Participle (having + past participle)

### **Present Participle:**

- Describes ongoing actions.
- Active in form.
- Used in progressive tenses and as adjectives.

### **Examples:**

- The barking dog.
- He saw her climbing a tree.

### **Past Participle:**

- Describes completed actions or states.
- Often used in passive voice or perfect tense.

### **Examples:**

- The burnt house.
- She felt irritated.



## Perfect Participle:

- Used when one action is completed before another.
- Formed with having + past participle

### Examples:

- Having eaten his food, he left.
- Having seen her brother, she returned home.

## The Gerund

A verb ending in -ing that functions as a noun.

**Also called:** Verbal noun

### Examples:

- Reading is a good habit.
- Swimming is good exercise.

## Difference Between Gerund and Participle:

Gerund	Participle
Reading is fun. (Subject)	I saw a boy reading. (Adjective)
Smoking is harmful. (Noun)	The man was smoking. (Action)

## Summary / Points to Remember

- **Finite Verbs:** Change with person, number, and tense.
- **Non-Finite Verbs:** Do not change with subject/tense.
- **Infinitive:** to + base form of verb (to go, to eat)
- **Bare Infinitive:** Base form without "to" (let go, can eat)
- **Participle:** Works like an adjective. Includes present, past, and perfect.
- **Gerund:** Verb acting as a noun (Reading is helpful.)