



Verbs

Introduction

Non-finite verbs are forms of verbs that do not change according to the subject. These include:

- **Infinitives**
- **Participles**
- **Gerunds**

They retain the same form regardless of the tense or subject.

1. The Infinitive

An infinitive is the base form of a verb, often preceded by “to”.

It may appear with or without 'to'.

Examples:

- She hopes to pass the exam.
- He can run very fast.

Types:

To-infinitive (**e.g.**, to go, to eat)

Bare infinitive (without “to”, **e.g.**, let go, make do)

Use of 'To'-Infinitive:

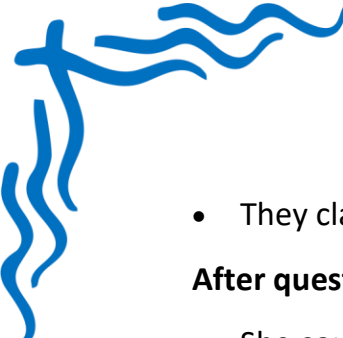
Used after verbs such as: decide, plan, agree, hope, want, expect, learn, promise, fail, like, intend, choose, remember, refuse, love, hate.

Examples:

- She decided to stay at home.
- They agreed to sign the project.

After certain verbs (**appear, seem, claim, happen**):

- He appears to have lost his purse.

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- They claim to have developed a vaccine.

After question words (what, how, where, whether) + to-infinitive:

- She could not decide where to hide the box.
- They do not know how to tackle the situation.

Bare Infinitive (without 'to'):

Used after verbs of perception and certain expressions:

- Verbs: see, hear, feel, let, make, bid, dare
- **Expressions:** would rather, had better, rather than

Examples:

- I saw the burglar climb over the fence.
- They heard her say that she was leaving.
- You had better sleep now.

Too...to Pattern:

- Structure: too + adjective + to + verb

Examples:

- The sum was too difficult to solve.
- The coffee was too hot to drink.

Infinitives to Make Sentences Compact:

- Using an infinitive can reduce wordiness.

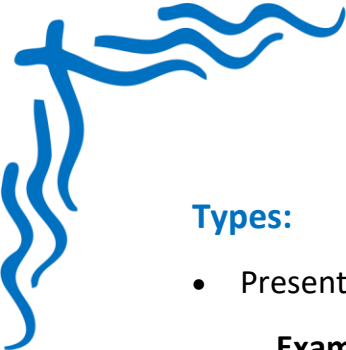
Examples:

- Uma hoped to win the match. (instead of “that she could win”)
- Santa Claus is believed to bring gifts.

2. The Participle

Definition:

A participle is a form of verb that acts like an adjective or adverb, modifying a noun or verb.



Types:

- Present Participle: ends in -ing; shows ongoing action

Example: The man sitting over there is my father.

- Past Participle: denotes completed action

Example: The food eaten by the children was contaminated.

Using Participles to Join Sentences:

Rule 1: Same subject – Convert one verb into participle

- The dog ran out barking.
- Being a foreigner, Nura doesn't understand Hindi.

Rule 2: Simultaneous actions – Use -ing

- Seeing a tiger, Kanika began to scream.

Rule 3: One action before another – Use having + past participle

- Having finished her homework, she went to meet her friend.

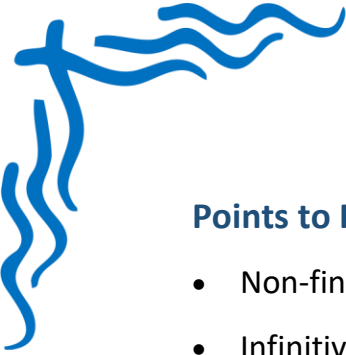
3. The Gerund

Definition:

A gerund is a verb form that ends in -ing and functions as a noun. Also called a verbal noun.

Uses of the Gerund:

Function	Example
Subject of a verb	Swimming is a good exercise.
Object of a verb	He started marching ahead.
Object of a preposition	Fond of playing.
Complement of a verb	His weakness is believing.
Appositional case	It is no use running.



Points to Remember

- Non-finites do not change with the subject or tense.
- Infinitive: base form, mostly with “to”.
- Use bare infinitive after perception and causative verbs.
- Participle: acts like an adjective or adverb.
- Use participles to combine sentences.
- Gerund: ends in –ing and functions as a noun.