



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Grade 7	Department: ENGLISH	Date of submission: November, 2021
Study Notes & Question Bank	Topic: Finite & Non-finite Verbs	Note: English Notebook



A verb that has a subject and shows the tense, person and number is known as a **finite verb**. A verb that has no subject and does not indicate the tense, person or number is called a **non-finite verb**.

Read these sentences.

The two sisters **teach** in a school.

Ram **works** in a bank.

Mohan **won** the last race.

In these sentences, the verbs **teach**, **works** and **won** have subjects and express the tense, person and number and are called **finite verbs**.

Now, read these sentences.

I like **to watch** films.

She likes **to watch** films.

They **like to** watch films.

In these sentences, the verb 'to watch' does not express the tense, person and number. Therefore, it is a **non-finite verb**.

There are three types of non-finite verbs. These are:

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

❖ INFINITIVES

An infinitive is also called the to-verb because it is commonly found in the form of to+finite verb.

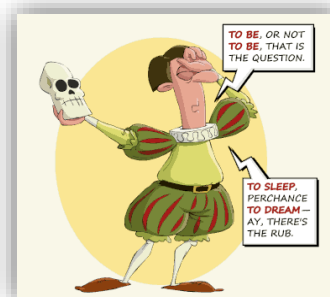
I want **to buy** some potatoes.

The children are eager **to learn** swimming.

This is a good book **to read**.

To shout is rude.

It is his ambition **to be** an artist.



When we use the infinitive without 'to', it is called a **bare infinitive**. We do not use 'to':

After verbs of perception like let, make, feel, hear, see, watch and bid.

I **let** the bird **fly**.

I **saw** the child **weep**.

After **had better**, **had rather**, **would rather**, **rather than**, **sooner than**

You **had rather leave** this place.

I **would rather starve** than beg.

She **had better finish** her homework.

When we use infinitives with auxiliary verbs like **must**, **can**, **shall**, **should**, **will**, **would** etc.

It **may rain** today.

I **must study** now.

❖ PARTICIPLES

A **participle** is a word which is partly a verb and partly an adjective. That is why it is called a **verbal adjective**.

Yesterday I read an **interesting** novel.

The **injured** persons were taken to the hospital.

Seeing the danger, the child started crying.

In the above sentences the words **interesting**, **injured**, and **seeing** are formed from the verbs interest, injure and see. They qualify nouns and pronouns novel, persons and child like adjectives.

There are three kinds of participles:

- ✚ Present Participles
- ✚ Past Participles
- ✚ Perfect Participles

Present Participles:

Present Participles are formed by adding -ing to the verb. They denote an incomplete action or state.

I heard the child **crying**.

The boys entered the room **laughing**.

Past Participles:

Past Participles are formed by adding d, ed, t, en, ne, n to the verb.

We saw the tree **laden** with apples.

The police found the place **abandoned**.

Perfect Participles:

Perfect Participles are formed by adding having or having been before the past participle form of the verb. Perfect participles denote an action which was completed at sometime in the past.

Having finished my lesson, I went to bed.

Having been selected, he rejoiced at the news.

Present Participle

Definition A present participle is a word that:

- ends "-ing"
- is formed from a verb
- is used as an adjective or for verb tense.

Examples

adjective (from "to flee")
The **fleeing** criminal

verb tense (from "to wave")
He was **waving** his cutlass.

Past Participle

Definition A past participle is a word that:

- is formed from a verb
- is used as an adjective or for verb tense
- probably ends -ed, -d, -t -en or -n.

Examples

adjective (from "to paint")
his **painted** skin

verb tense (from "to forget")
I have **forgotten** my lines.

Perfect Participle :

Perfect Participle is formed by using having before the past participle. It also works as a verb and an adjective.

Example :

- Having reached home, he went straight to his mother.
- Having read the, he gave it to me.

❖ GERUNDS

A Gerund is a verbal noun. It is formed from a verb and it does the function of a noun.

I am fond of **painting**.

Smoking is bad for health.

In these sentences **painting** and **smoking** are formed from the verbs paint and smoke but they perform the function of nouns. They are partly nouns and partly verbs. These words are called **verbal nouns** or **gerunds**.



Exercise:1

Underline the finite verbs and circle the non-finite verbs.

1. I love helping others.
2. To find faults with others is easy.
3. Walking in the lawn, I found a coin.
4. To tell the truth, we were running late.
5. Swimming is my favourite sport.
6. The government banned fishing at the lake.
7. There is no food to eat.
8. Barking dogs seldom bite.
9. The enemy had no alternative but to yield.
10. She selected the box filled with sweets.

Exercise:2

Identify the non-finite verbs in the given sentences and state whether it is an infinitive/participle/gerund.

1. Abhishek was screaming with fear when he saw a spider.
2. I am tired of your screaming.
3. He likes driving.
4. He likes to drive.
5. What I dislike the most is cheating.
6. A burnt child dreads the fire.
7. The food is too hot for me to eat now.
8. The man ran after the moving bus.
9. We rescued the passengers from the wrecked car.
10. Gambling ruined his business.

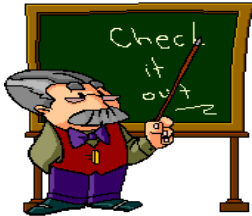
Exercise:3

Complete these sentences with the present or past participles of the verbs in the brackets.

1. ----- (satisfy) by the results, the man left the office.
2. ----- (knock) on the glass door, Rama drew my attention.

3. She ran to pick up the ----- (cry) child.
4. ----- (lose) time never returns.
5. I saw the tornado ----- (approach) fast.
6. ----- (delay) by the agitation, the train arrived at 6 pm.
7. ----- (shock) by the events, he broke down.
8. ----- (hear) the doorbell, John opened the door.

Additional Web Resources:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33Ya6dugOnI&t=180s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6k4NPbPQm4U&t=37s>
