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**((Finite and Non- Finite Verbs))**

## **Finite and Non- Finite Verbs**

### **What are finite verbs?**

A finite verb is a verb which has a subject and shows tense. Finite verbs are those verbs that agree with the subject and express the mood, tense, number and person. In short, it is a verb being a verb (i.e., a doing word) as opposed to a verbal (which is another part of speech formed from a verb). Every sentence needs a finite verb. Look at these examples:

- He painted the fence.

In this example, *painted* is a finite verb.

- He varnished the painted fence.

In this example, *painted* is a verbal.

It's actually a participle from the verb to paint, which is being used as an adjective.

A verbal is another name for a non-finite verb. Here are some more examples:

- You promised me the last ticket.
- I was excited about going to the amusement park.
- I went for a walk around the park.
- Everyone wanted to go to the amusement park , but we only had four tickets.

## **Non- Finite Verbs**

Non- finite verb is a verb form or clause that does not show a particular tense, person or number". These verbs cannot be the main verb of a clause or sentence as they do not talk about the action that is being

performed by the subject or noun. They do not indicate any tense, mood or gender. They are used as nouns, adverbs and adjectives.

*Kinds of non-finite verbs:* There are three kinds of Non-Finite Verbs in English, namely:

1. Gerund
2. Infinitive
3. Participle

- He loves *camping* in the woods.

Here, the non-finite verb is *camping*, and it is used as a noun. These kind of non-finite verbs are called ***gerunds***.

- I need to go *to sleep*.

Here, the non- finite verb phrase is *to sleep*, and it is acting as a noun. Non-finite verbs that use 'to' before them are called ***infinitives***.

- The *sleeping* dog caused a delay.

The non-finite verbs that have '-ing' or '-ed' as suffixes and cause the verb to become an adjective are called ***participles***.

### **FINITE AND NON-FINITE VERBS CAN LOOK IDENTICAL.**

Look at these examples:

- They roasted chestnuts. (Roasted is finite.)
- They love roasted chestnuts. (Roasted is non-finite.)
- They laugh. (Laugh is finite.)
- They did laugh. (Laugh is non-finite.)

(**Note:** This is one of those times when the infinitive form of the verb is not preceded by to.)

**Remember**, to find a non-finite verb, check:

- Is it a noun?
- Does it end in - ing? ◇ gerunds
- Is it preceded by to? ◇ infinitive verbs
- Does it end in - ed or – ing
- Is it being used like an adjective? ◇ participles

## **GERUNDS**

### **What Are Gerunds?**

A gerund is a noun formed from a verb. All gerunds end - ing. For example:

- *Acting* is fun. (Gerund as the subject of a sentence.)
- *Playing* football is fun. (Here, football is the “gerund complement” of the gerund playing.)
- Generosity is *giving* more than you can, and pride is *taking* less than you need. --- Kahlil Gibran, 1883-1931 (Two gerund phrases are both subject complements).
- I love *acting*. (A gerund as the direct object of the verb love)

### **Infinitive phrases**

The non-finite parts of the verb are: base: *to-infinitive (to write) base: bare infinitive (write)*.

A. To infinitive: It is formed by placing 'to' before the root verb. Ex: Root verb Infinitive Write (to write), Speak (to speak). Infinitive clauses An infinitive can be followed by an object or complainant

and/or by one or more adverbials. The infinitive together with such phrases is called an infinitive clause.

- A sightseeing tour is the best way to see the city.

B. .Bare infinitive : The infinitive verb form without "to". Bare Infinitive is used with the following verbs: {Bid, let, hear, Watch, make, need, See, help, dare} Ex:

- I bade him go.
- She made me understand life.

### ***Participle***

What is Participle?

It is formed by adding "ing" to the root verb. Note: Present Participle is different from Past Participle. Ex: Root verb Participle Read reading. The gerund and the Present Participle have the same form but gerund is a verbal noun and the Present Participle is a verbal adjective.

- Reading increases our knowledge. [gerund]
- Reading the newspaper, he sat in the chair. [participle]

In the first sentence, 'reading' is a gerund because it is the subject of the verb 'is'. But in the second sentence, 'reading the newspaper' is a participle because it qualifies the pronoun 'he' as an adjective.