

## 6<sup>th</sup> - Non Finite Verbs -I



**Non-Finite Verbs:** You have learnt that verbs can be finite or non-finite. A verb that has a subject and shows tense, person and number is called a **finite verb**.

For example,

- I live in New Delhi.
- My sister lives in Mumbai.

A verb that has no subject, and does not show person or number is called a **non-finite verb**.

For example,

- I love to go to the mall.
- Reena sat waiting quietly.

There are three kinds of non-finite verbs—**infinitives participles and gerunds**. Let us learn about them in detail.

### Infinitives

- **I want to sing.**
- She **wants to improve** her English.

In these sentences, the verb **want** is the **finite verb**. **To sing** and **to improve** are the infinitives.

Infinitives are also called the **to-verb** because **to** is often used to form an infinitive. Let us look at the functions of the infinitive.

An infinitive can be used—

- as the subject of the verb in a sentence. For example,
- **To lie is bad.**

Infinitives are useful when—

- we wish to state an aim or purpose.
- He called to thank me.
- He wanted to borrow some money.
- They agreed to consider our case.
- as the object of the verb in a sentence. For example,
- **I want to dance.**
- as the subject of the verb, but it also takes an object of its own. For example,
- **To respect our parents is our duty.**
- as the object of the verb but it also takes an object of its own. For example,
- I expect **to complete the task.**
- as the object of the verb and also be modified by an adverb. For example,
- Many of the singers preferred **to sing** softly.
- to qualify an adjective or a noun. For example,
- This is not the time to laze.
- **Quinine is bitter to taste.**
- as the object of a preposition. For example,
- The concert is **about to end.**
- as the complement of a verb. For example,
- This is **to ensure** your safety.

We usually use **to** with the infinitive. However, it is not essential. Look at these instances where we do not use **to**.

**We do not use to with the infinitive—**

- with modals. For example,  
The child **may go**.
- after verbs of perception like see, **hear, watch, know and feel**. For example,  
I **saw** the clouds **gather** in the sky.
- after verbs like **make and let**. For example,



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Paula made him cry.  
Let me **do** this now.

- after the conjunction **but**. For example,  
The child did nothing **but sleep**.
- after **had better**, **had rather**, **sooner than**, etc. For example,  
She **had better** leave now.

**A** Correct the errors, if any, in these sentences. Omit the infinitives if they are not required and add where necessary.

1. She **did** nothing but cry. \_\_\_\_\_
2. I got somebody **help me**. \_\_\_\_\_
3. 'How did the cat enter?' \_\_\_\_\_  
'I forgot **shutting** the window.' \_\_\_\_\_

Look at these sentences where the infinitive has been used to join two simple sentences.

- It is very humid. We should not exercise.  
It is **too humid to exercise**.
- These are very ripe apples. They cannot be used.  
These apples are **too ripe to be used**.

The adverb **too** is often used while joining sentences with infinitives.

Now, look at these sentences.

We were amused when we heard the news.

We were **amused to hear** the news.

The verb **heard** in the first sentence has been replaced by the infinitive **to hear** in the second sentence.

**B** Rewrite each of these sentences by removing the highlighted word or phrase and replacing it with an infinitive. Make necessary changes.

1. The pages came off when I tried **turning** them. \_\_\_\_\_
2. He went to the hills as he **wanted** relaxation, \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Give me** something that I can eat. \_\_\_\_\_

**C** Join these sets of sentences using infinitives

- 1 He wants to serve his people This is **his greatest desire** \_\_\_\_\_
2. He stopped at the hotel. He **wanted** some rest. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Drink more water. I **advised** him that. \_\_\_\_\_

