

8th - 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

Read these sentences.

- 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.

- we wish to indicate result.
My great-grandmother lived to see me succeed
- 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**.

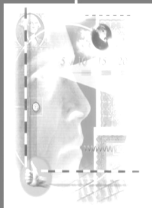
We do not use to with the infinitive—

- 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,
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.



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

1. Can you remind me buy some butter?

2. The sweets are delicious. You must to try one.

3. The captain will not let the truant soldier escape.

4. The teachers are going to participate in the tournament.

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 She started **pushing** the car when it broke down

2 I think she began **enjoying** the work for the company

3. Health is so important that it **should not be neglected**.

4. Remember that the **keys should be kept in the top drawer**.

C. Join these sets of sentences using infinitives

1. He is going to Mumbai. He will start a business there

2. He cannot afford higher education. He is very poor.

3. She is very ill. She cannot commence work right away.

4. She stopped work. She stopped so that she could open the door.

