

Finite and Non-finite Verbs

Differences between Finite and Non-finite verbs



Finite Verbs

What are finite verbs?

A finite verb is a verb which has a subject and shows tense. 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:

1. 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.

2. On that dark day, the spirits **rose** from their graves to feast upon the living.

In that moment, it all **became** clear that the amusement park **was** a trap.



3. This is a fairly unknown fact: mosquito repellents **work** by hiding you, not by repelling. The spray **blocks** the mosquitoes' sensors, which **makes** them blind to your presence.



4. My sister **sent** a card to my aunt and uncle in 1930, and it **arrived** yesterday. It **was** hilarious because the post office **attached** a small label on the card to apologize for the delay. The postman **seemed** pretty nonchalant. We **were** all amazed.

5. Once we **saw** the undead, we **raced** to the exit only to find it locked. Armed with a bottle of ketchup, I **made** my last stand by swinging the bottle wildly. I **think** I **am** untarnished. I just **want** to go home now and to relax from the stress of this day. Actually, I really **fancy** a nice plate of brains.



The best way to find a finite verb is by eliminating it as a non-finite verb. So, **check** :

Is it being used as a noun?

Is it preceded by **to**?

Is it being used as an adjective?

Look at this example:

He likes *painting* and wants *to paint* the *painted* fence.

In this example, all “*paint*” looks a bit like verbs.

Non-Finite Verbs

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.

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.

Some more examples: (non-finite verbs shaded)

I started **screaming** at my parents for **trying to send** me to a camp.

(**screaming** and **trying** -gerunds)

(**to send** -infinitive verb)

Arriving late, I saw the other kids, and they seemed **to be excited**.

(**arriving** -present participle) (**to be** -infinitive verb) (**excited**-past participle)

We sang songs around the campfire and toasted marshmallows.

(There are no non-finite verbs in this example.)

Non-Finite Verbs

There are three main types of nonfinite verbs:
gerunds, infinitives, and participles.

Non-Finite Verb แปลว่า "กริยาไม่แท้" หมายถึง

1. คำกริยาที่ไม่ได้นำมาใช้อย่างกริยาแท้ แม้จะ...
2. มีรูปมาจากคำกริยาก็ตาม
ถูกนำมาใช้ทำหน้าที่เป็นอย่างอื่นแทน เช่น เป็น noun บ้างหรือเป็น adjectives

Practice: Choose the non-finite verbs

I used to be scared of monsters. I was sure they lived under my bed. I still find some monsters are frightening, but I have stopped looking for them nowadays. I know they are only to be found in legends or horror fictions.

Practice: Choose the non-finite verbs

I **used to be scared** of monsters. I **was** sure they **lived** under my bed. I still **find** some monsters **are frightening**, but I **have stopped looking** for them nowadays. I **know** they **are** only **to be found** in legends or horror fiction.

Practice: Choose the non-finite verbs

The picture illustrates the ferocity of the great white shark. I can imagine huge teeth slicing through my ribs and abdomen.

Practice: Choose the non-finite verbs

The picture **illustrates** the ferocity of the great white shark. I **can imagine** huge teeth **slicing** through my ribs and abdomen.

Practice: Choose the non-finite verbs

**Rodney was repaired with more than 450
stitches. As a reporter climbing onboard a boat
with Rodney Fox, I am still fixated by that image.**

Practice: Choose the non-finite verbs

Rodney **was repaired** with more than 450 stitches. As a reporter **climbing** onboard a boat with Rodney Fox, I **am** still **fixated** by that image.

Practice: Choose the non-finite verbs

I am having a great time here at camp. Today, we went fishing, and I managed to set a new camp record by catching the biggest trout.

Practice: Choose the non-finite verbs

I **am having** a great time here at camp. Today, we **went** **fishing**, and I **managed to set** a new camp record **by catching** the biggest trout.

Practice: Choose the non-finite verbs

**We all laughed when Tommy reeled in his fishing line
only to pull up an old tackle box covered in slime.**

We were surprised to find a bottle inside.

Practice: Choose the non-finite verbs

We all **laughed** when Tommy **reeled** in his **fishing** line
only **to pull up** an old tackle box **covered** in slime.

We **were** **surprised to find** a bottle inside.

Practice: Choose the non-finite verbs

Inside the bottle was a message. When we read it, we realized it was a time capsule. We decided to make our own message in a bottle. We put ours in the box and threw it back in the lake.

Practice: Choose the non-finite verbs

Inside the bottle **was** a message. When we **read** it,
we **realized** it **was** a time capsule. We **decided** **to make**
our own message in a bottle. We **put** ours in the box
and **threw** it back in the lake.

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* and 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:



GERUNDS

Acting is fun. (Gerund as the subject of a sentence.)

Playing football is fun.

(Here, *football* is the “gerund complement” of the gerund *playing*.)

GERUNDS

Acting is merely the art of *keeping* a large group of people from *coughing*. --- Sir Ralph Richardson, 1902-1983

(*Acting* is a gerund as a subject.

The gerund phrase “*keeping a large group of people*” and the gerund “*coughing*” are objects of prepositions.

“*A large group of people*” is the gerund complement of *keeping*.)

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**. It is so much more real than life.

--- Oscar Wilde, 1854-1900

(A gerund as the **direct object** of the **verb** love)

You can tell a lot about a fellow's character by his way of **eating jellybeans**.

--- Ronald Reagan, 1911-2004

(The gerund phrase “**eating jellybeans**” is the **object of a preposition of**)

I like to play blackjack. I'm not addicted to **gambling**, I'm addicted

to **sitting in a semi-circle**. --- Mitch Hedberg, 1968-2005

(The gerund “**gambling**” and the gerund phrase “**sitting in a semi-circle**” are

both **objects of prepositions, to and of.**)

Verbs Followed by a Gerund

admit	delay	finish	permit	resist
advise	deny	forbid	postpone	resume
appreciate	detest	get through	practise	risk
avoid	dislike	have	quit	spend
can't help	enjoy	imagine	recall	(time)
complete	escape	mind	report	suggest
consider		miss	resent	tolerate
				waste (time)

Verbs Followed by a Preposition and a Gerund

admit to	depend on	plan on
approve of	disapprove of	prevent
argue about	discourage from	(someone) from
believe in	dream about	refrain from
care about	feel like	succeed in
complain about	forget about	talk about
concentrate on	insist on	think about
confess to	object to	worry about

Verbs Involving Senses:

feel hear listen to look at notice
observe overhear see watch



Verbs of perception — *hear, see, watch* — and a handful of other verbs — *help, let, and make* — are called the **bare infinitive**, an infinitive without the particle "to." This is true of these verbs only in the active voice.

We watched him clear the table.

They heard the thief crash through the door.

She made me do it.

We helped her finish the homework.



Fill in the correct form



GERUND AND INFINITIVE

1. Mary enjoys _____ to music. (listen)

2. I don't mind _____ the washing up. (do)

3. Irregular verbs are not easy _____. (remember)

4. Mathew is really good at _____ . (cook)

5. She waited _____ a movie ticket. (buy)

6. The doctor encouraged his patients _____ healthy food. (eat)
7. My flat is easy _____ . (find)
8. She is interested in _____ a doctor. (become)
9. He is saving money _____ a new car. (buy)
10. When I met her, I couldn't help _____ her. (hug)