



Finite Verbs and Non-finite verbs

ENGLISH ACADEMY

BY BODY OF STUDENTS

Finite Verbs:

Finite verbs are verbs that:

1. Have a subject.
2. Indicate tense, person, and number.
3. Can function as the main verb in a sentence, forming an independent clause.

Examples:

- She plays football every weekend. (*The finite verb "plays" is in the present tense and agrees with the subject "she."*)
- They went to the market yesterday. (*The finite verb "went" is in the past tense.*)

Non-Finite Verbs:

Non-finite verbs do not indicate tense, person, or number and cannot act as the main verb of a sentence. They include:

1. **Infinitives:** Verbs preceded by "to" (e.g., to run, to eat).
2. **Gerunds:** Verb forms ending in "-ing" that act as nouns (e.g., running, eating).
3. **Participles:** Verb forms used as adjectives or in verb phrases (e.g., running, eaten).

Examples:

- She wants to play football. (*The infinitive "to play" does not indicate tense.*)
- Running is good for health. (*The gerund "running" acts as a noun.*)
- The book, written by her, became a bestseller. (*The past participle "written" acts as an adjective.*)

Key Differences

Feature	Finite Verbs	Non-Finite Verbs
Tense/Person	Indicate tense and person	Do not indicate tense/person
Function	Act as the main verb in clauses	Cannot act as the main verb
Examples	writes, wrote, go, went	to write, writing, written

Examples of Finite Verbs in Sentences:

- 1. She sings beautifully. (*Finite verb "sings" is in present tense and agrees with the subject "She."*)
- 2. They are running late. (*Finite verb "are" is part of the verb phrase and is in present tense.*)
- 3. He ate lunch at noon. (*Finite verb "ate" is in past tense.*)
- 4. The dog barks loudly at strangers. (*Finite verb "barks" agrees with the singular subject "dog."*)

Examples of Non-Finite Verbs in Sentences:

Infinitive:

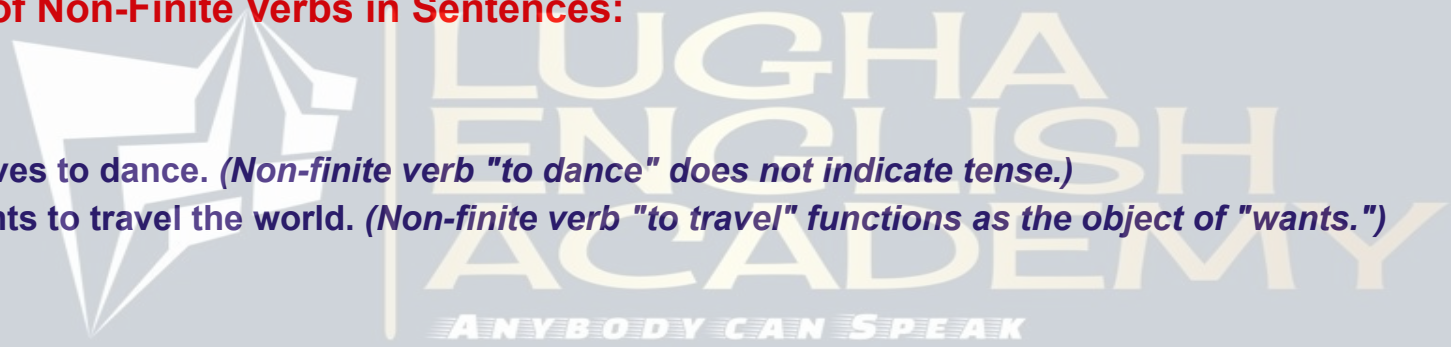
- 5. She loves to dance. (*Non-finite verb "to dance" does not indicate tense.*)
- 6. He wants to travel the world. (*Non-finite verb "to travel" functions as the object of "wants."*)

Gerund:

- 3. Swimming is her favorite activity. (*Non-finite verb "swimming" acts as the subject of the sentence.*)
- 4. He avoided answering the question. (*Non-finite verb "answering" functions as the object of "avoided."*)

Participle:

- 5. The child, crying for hours, finally fell asleep. (*Non-finite verb "crying" describes the subject "child."*)
- 6. The broken vase lay on the floor. (*Non-finite verb "broken" acts as an adjective describing "vase."*)



Sentences with Both Finite and Non-Finite Verbs:

1. She is writing a letter. (*Finite verb "is" and non-finite verb "writing."*)
2. He likes to read books in his free time. (*Finite verb "likes" and non-finite verb "to read."*)
3. Having completed the task, she took a break. (*Finite verb "took" and non-finite verb "Having completed."*)

1: Identify the Finite Verbs and non-finite verbs

1. We will visit the museum tomorrow.
2. The dog barks loudly at strangers.
3. She is learning to play the piano.
4. The teacher encouraged him to read more books.
5. Having completed his homework, he went out to play.
6. I enjoy swimming in the ocean during summer.

Fill in the Blanks

Choose the correct form of the verb to complete each sentence:

1. She enjoys _____ (to paint/painting) landscapes.
2. I need _____ (to finish/finishing) this project by tomorrow.
3. The children _____ (are playing/play) in the park every afternoon.
4. He avoided _____ (to answer/answering) the difficult question.
5. The food, _____ (to prepare/prepared) by the chef, was delicious.

Rewrite Sentences

Rewrite each sentence by changing the finite verb to a non-finite verb or vice versa:

1. She enjoys painting landscapes. (*Change "painting" to a finite verb.*)
2. He is determined to win the competition. (*Change "to win" to a finite verb.*)
3. The boy, crying loudly, was comforted by his mother. (*Change "crying" to a finite verb.*)

ANYBODY CAN SPEAK

In the sentences below, identify all finite and non-finite verbs, and label the non-finite verbs as infinitive, gerund, or participle.

- 1. Having completed the marathon, she collapsed from exhaustion.**
- 2. To err is human, but to forgive is divine.**
- 3. The cat, frightened by the loud noise, hid under the couch.**
- 4. He kept working on the project despite being tired.**
- 5. The plan to construct a bridge was approved by the council.**

ANYBODY CAN SPEAK

Sentence Construction

Construct sentences based on the following instructions:

1. Use an infinitive and a finite verb.
2. Use a gerund and a finite verb in a single sentence.
3. Use a participle phrase and a finite verb together.
4. Write a sentence with two finite verbs and one non-finite verb.
5. Write a sentence with three non-finite verbs (one infinitive, one gerund, and one participle).