

Non-Finite Forms of the Verb

1) The infinitive and its properties.

- a) Morphological Features.
- b) The categories of the infinitive.
- c) Syntactic functions.

2) The gerund and its properties.

- a) Morphological Features.
- b) The categories of gerund.
- c) Syntactic functions.
- d) The notion of half-gerund.
- e) The Infinitive and the Gerund Compared.
- f) The Gerund and the Verbal Noun Compared.

3) The present participle.

- a) Morphological Features.
- b) The categories of Participle I.
- c) Syntactic functions.

Introductory

- The verbals (verbids) combine the characteristics of the verb with the characteristics of other parts of speech.
- The opposition between the finite and non-finite forms of the verb creates a special grammatical category – the category of finitude.
- The differential feature of the opposition is constituted by the **expression of verbal time and mood**.
- The syntactic content of the category of finitude is the expression of verbal predication.

The Infinitive

- The infinitive is historically a verbal noun.
- The infinitive is treated as the head-form of the whole paradigm of the verb.
- The infinitive has two presentation forms: marked and unmarked.
- The infinitive combines the properties of the verb with those of the noun.

Verbal Features of the Infinitive

Morphological:

- the infinitive has the verb categories of voice, perfect and aspect;

Syntactical:

- the infinitive possesses the verb combinability:
- a) it takes an object in the same way as the corresponding finite verbs do;
- b) it takes a predicative if it happens to be a link verb;
- c) it is modified by adverbials in the same way as finite verbs.

Nominal Features of the Infinitive

- Are revealed only in its function:
- *To understand is to forgive.* (subject, predicative)
- That's what I wanted *to know*. (object)
- I saw the chance *to escape* into the garden. (attribute)
- I merely came back *to water* the roses. (adverbial modifier of purpose)



Perfect	Aspect		Active	Passive
Non-Perfect	Common		to go	-
			to take	to be taken
	Continuous		to be going	-
			to be taking	(to be being taken)
Perfect	Common		to have gone	-
			to have taken	to have been taken
	Continuous		to have been going	-
			to have been taking	-

Syntactic Functions of the Infinitive:

- *To meet* the head of the administration and not to *speak* to him about your predicament was unwise, to say the least of it.
- The chief arranged to *receive* the foreign delegation in the afternoon.
- The parents' wish had always been to see their eldest son the continuator of their joint scientific work.
- Here again we are faced with a plot to *overthrow* the legitimately elected government of the republic.
- Helen was far too worried to *listen* to the remonstrances.

The Gerund

- The gerund is originally a verbal noun in *-ing*.
- Its substantive meaning is more strongly pronounced than that of the infinitive: unlike the infinitive, the gerund can be modified by a noun in the genitive case or by the possessive pronoun and used with prepositions.
- The general combinability of the gerund, like that of the infinitive, is dual, sharing some features with the verb, and some features with the noun.

Verbal Features of the Gerund

● Morphological

Voice	Active	Passive
Perfect		
Non-Perfect	running	-
	taking	being taken
Perfect	having ran	-
	having taken	having been taken

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- Syntactical:
 - The gerund may combine:
 - a) with a noun or pronoun as direct, indirect or prepositional object, depending on the verb it is formed from;
 - b) with an adjective or a noun as a predicative;
 - c) with an infinitive.
 - Gerunds can be modified by adverbs and prepositional phrases functioning as adverbial modifiers.

Nominal Features of the Gerund

- The **nominal** character of the gerund reveals itself syntactically, mainly in its syntactical function, partly in its combinability. Like a noun, it can function as subject, object, or predicative.
- *Seeing you is always a pleasure. (subject)*
- *I remember seeing you somewhere. (object)*
- *I am thinking of seeing the film again. (prepositional object)*
- *Peter's hobby is seeing all new films. (predicative)*

When it is an attribute or an adverbial modifier, a gerund, like a noun is **preceded by a preposition**.

- *There is a chance of catching the train.*
- *Don't forget to call me up before leaving London.*
- *I reached my goal in spite of there being every reason against it.*



Like a noun, but unlike the other non-finites, it **can combine with a possessive pronoun** and a **noun in the genitive case** denoting the doer of the action expressed by the gerund.

- *Excuse my interrupting you.*
- *I insist on John's staying with us.*

It **combines with the negative pronoun** no in the idiomatic construction of the type:

- *There is no getting out of it.*
- **Unlike the noun**, the gerund cannot be used in the plural; it cannot be preceded by the article (or its substitute); it cannot be determined by the adjective.

Syntactic Functions of the Gerund

- *Repeating* your accusations over and over again doesn't make them more convincing.
- No wonder he delayed *breaking* the news to Uncle Jim.
- She could not give her mind to *pressing* wild flowers in Pauline's botany book.
- Joe felt annoyed at *being shied* by his room-mates.
- You know what luck is? Luck is *believing* you're lucky.
- Fancy the pleasant prospect of *listening* to all the gossip they've in store for you!
- He could not push against the furniture without *bringing* the whole lot down.

The Gerund and The Infinitive Compared

- With the verbs *to like*, *to hate*, *to prefer* the gerund expresses a more general or a habitual action, the infinitive a specific single action.
- With the verbs *to begin* and *to start* either form may generally be used, but again the gerund is preferable when the action is more general.
- The verb *to remember* is followed by a gerund when it means a prior action (*to recall*, *to keep in one's memory some past event*), and by an infinitive when it means a simultaneous action (the working of one's memory).

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- The verb *to regret* is followed by the gerund to suggest priority, whereas the infinitive suggests a simultaneous action.
 - After *to stop* the gerund is used when it suggests the end of the action denoted by the gerund, whereas the infinitive is used as an adverbial of purpose.
 - The phrasal verb *to go on* with a gerund suggests the continuation of the action, denoted by the gerund and forms part of a compound verbal predicate; an infinitive points out a new stage in the sequence of actions.

The Gerund and the Verbal Noun

The Gerund

- has voice and correlation distinctions;
- can function as a direct object;
- can have adverbs as modifiers.

The Verbal Noun

- has the plural form;
- functions in of-phrases;
- combines with adjectival attributes;
- has the article.

The Notion of Half-Gerund

- I don't count on *his / him scaring easily*.
- Then he was aware of *Toscato's / Toscato shaking the door of the box*. I remember *them staying with us once*
- Fancy *his / him saying so!*

- The **possessive subject** of the *ing*-form in the first of the two sentences is clearly a structural adjunct of a nounal collocation.
- But **the objective subject** of the *ing*-form, by virtue of its morphological constitution, cannot be associated with a noun.
- The *ing*-form with the objective subject can be understood as a participle.

The Present Participle

- The present participle is the non-finite form of the verb which combines the properties of the verb with those of the adjective and adverb.
- In its outer form the present participle is wholly homonymous with the gerund, ending in the suffix *-ing* and distinguishing the same grammatical categories of temporal correlation and voice.
- Both forms denote a process – the present participle (or the past participle) denotes a qualifying process while the gerund denotes a substantival process.

Verbal Features of Participle I

- Morphological

Voice		
	Active	Passive
Perfect		
Non-Perfect	going taking	- being taken
Perfect	having gone having taken	- having been taken

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- Syntactical. It can combine:
 - a) with a noun or a pronoun as direct, indirect or prepositional object;
 - b) with an adverb or a prepositional phrase as an adverbial modifier;
 - c) with a noun or adjective as a predicative.

Adjectival and Adverbial Features of Participle I

- Are manifested in its syntactical functions as an attribute and an adverbial modifier:

Arriving at the station, she saw him at once, leaning against the railing.

- **Like an adjective**, participle I forms adverbs with the suffix **-ly**: *laughingly, jokingly, surprisingly, admiringly, appealingly, feelingly.*

Syntactic Functions of Participle I

- The questions became more and more *irritating*.
- She had thrust the crucifix on to the *surviving* baby.
- Norman stood on the pavement like a man *watching* his loved one go aboard an ocean liner.
- He was no longer the cocky, pugnacious boy, always *squaring up* for a fight.
- She went up the steps, *swinging* her hips and *tossing* her fur with bravado.
- And *having read* in the papers about truth drugs, of course Gladys would believe it absolutely.

Participle I and the Gerund Compared

- As **predicative** participle I gives qualitative characteristics to the subject, thus tending towards an adjective.
- When a gerund or a participle is used as an **attribute**, the difference between them lies in the absence or presence of the preposition, also in their relationship to the modified noun. Participle I denotes an action that the person or thing performs or experiences.

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- When used as **an adverbial modifier**, the gerund is more varied in its application than the participle because it is used with different prepositions.

The Past Participle

- The past participle is the non-finite form of the verb which combines the properties of the verb with those of the adjective, serving as the qualifying-processual name.
- Unlike the present participle, it has no paradigm of its own.

Adjectival Features of Participle II

- Manifest themselves in its function in the sentence, usually that of either attribute or predicative.
- It may combine with adverbs of degree typical of adjectives, such as *very*, *too*, *slightly*, *so*, *much*, *more*, as in:
 - I am *very pleased* with you.
 - The children were *too excited* to notice the newcomer.
- Similar to adjectives and participle I, participle II may form adverbs with the help of the suffix **-ly**: *fixedly*, *unhurriedly*, *admittedly*.

Verbal Features of Participle II

- The **verbal** character of participle II is manifested in its combinability.
- Participle II of transitive verbs easily combines with a *by-object* denoting the doer of the action as in:
 - *Jane entered the room followed by her brother.*

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- Participles II of phrasal verbs retain their composite structure: a *boy brought up in a teacher's family*.
 - Participles II of prepositional transitive verbs are followed by the appropriate prepositions: *a book often asked for, the article referred to, a man much spoken of*.

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- Ditransitive verbs keep their second object as in:
 - *That was the main question asked her at the wedding.*
 - Participle II may be accompanied by an adverbial modifier expressed by adverbs or phrases combining with verbs: *a house built two years before, man hidden in the bush, a play well acted, a story long forgotten.*

Voice Peculiarities

- The passive meaning of participle II may be of three types:
 - 1) denoting an action directed towards the person or non-person expressed by the subject or object.
 - Spanish is one of the foreign languages *taught* at our Institute.
 - 2) denoting a state, which is the result of an action.
 - The problem is *solved*. The door is *shut*.
 - 3) denoting a pure state.
 - *I felt annoyed* when he refused to help me.

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- Participle II of i n t r a n s i t i v e verbs is always active in meaning.
 - The use of these participles is restricted.
 - Only participles II of verbs denoting motion or change of state can be used as attributes. These are participles II of the verbs *to arrive*, *to fall*, *to go*, *to rise*, *to depart*, *to decease*, *to retire*, *to fade*, *to wither*, *to vanish*, *to decay* and some others.

Aspect Peculiarities

- **In transitive terminative verbs** the passive meaning of participle II is combined with perfectivity. Thus participle II can be opposed to participle I in their aspectual meanings of perfectivity/imperfectivity: *taking - taken, asking - asked, writing - written, telling - told*.
- **Participle II of intransitive verbs or verbs used intransitively** is always perfective in meaning and can be opposed to non-perfect participle I: *rising - risen, decaying - decayed, going - gone, arriving - arrived, retiring - retired*.

Syntactic Functions of Participle II

- Moyra's *softened* look gave him a new hope.
- The cleverly *chosen* timing of the attack determined the outcome of the battle.
- It is a face *devastated* by passion.
- His was a victory *gained* against all rules and predictions.
- *Looked upon* in this light, the wording of the will didn't appear so odious.
- The light is bright and inconveniently *placed* for reading.



Participle II may serve as an adverbial modifier of:

- **time**, usually with the conjunction *when* or *until*:

He is very affable *when spoken to*, but naturally silent.

- **reason**:

Deprived of his wife and son by the Spanish adventure, Jolyon found the solitude at Robin Hill intolerable.

- **condition**, mostly with the conjunction *if* or *unless*:

I shall certainly give evidence on your behalf, *if required*.

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- **concession**, with the conjunction *though* or *although*:
Though asked in disarming sociability, Haldone's question was loaded.
 - **comparison**, with the conjunction *as if* or *as though*:
“I get off the train,” he repeated *as if hypnotized*.