**Module-II (Verbal Skills)**

**Verbs in English**

* **Finite verbs**

Verbs which inflect for tense are known as finite verbs. In English, a finite verb agrees with the person or number with its subject.

* **Non-Finite verbs**

Non-finite verbs do not inflect for tense. A non-finite verb need not agree with the person and number of its subject. The three non-finite forms of the verb are: 1. Infinitive, 2. Gerund, and 3. Participle.

1. **Infinitives**

Infinitives are non-finite verbs that are often preceded by ‘to’. There are four kinds of infinitive:

**a**. **To-infinitive**

**(to + first form of the verb)**

A ‘to’ infinitive can function as a subject, direct object, subject complement, adjective or as an adverb in a sentence.

e.g. a. *To find fault* in others is easy (subject).

b. Everyone wanted *to swim*. (direct object)

c. Her desire is *to sing*. (subject complement)

d. This is a site *to see*. (adjective)

e. They must sing *to learn*. (adverb)

**Note**:

* If a verb related to a skill is in the infinitive form, we use ‘how’ before the infinitive.

I am learning *how to ride* a bicycle/horse.

* Do not confuse an infinitive (i.e. to + verb) with a prepositional

phrase [i.e. to + noun/pronoun].

* **Infinitives:** e.g. to walk, to read, to sing, to catch, etc.
* **Prepositional phrases:**

e.g. to him, to the committee, to my house, etc.

**b. Split Infinitive**

A split infinitive is understood when a full infinitive (to+ verb) is split into two parts, and an adverb is placed between the two. e.g. He asked me *to clearly write* my bio-data.

**c. Anaphoric ‘to’**

Sometimes ‘*to’* alone is used instead of ‘*to*+ first form of the verb’ (i.e. full infinitive). It is understood as anaphoric usage because it refers back to something in the text.

e.g. **Rohan:** Would you like to have samosa?

**Sohan:** Yes, I would love *to*.

(here ‘to’ refers back to ‘to have samosa’)

**d**. **Bare Infinitive:**

An infinitive without ‘to’ is known as a bare infinitive. A bare infinitive has a deceptive form because it looks like a finite verb, which is not the case. e.g.

* I saw him *cross* the road.
* He mademe *sing.*

1. **Gerund**

The first form of the verb +‘ing’, which is used as a noun in a sentence is known as a Gerund. It can function in various ways:

1. **As an object**

e.g. He likes *driving*.

1. **As a subject**

e.g. *Smoking* is prohibited in a public place.

**c. As an appositive**

e.g. My favourite summer activity, *swimming*, keeps me always active.

1. **Participles**

Participles can be used as adjectives and may also function as verbs.

There are three types of participles:

1. **Present Participle** (base form of verb +ing), e.g.

i. The *sleeping* child was wearing a wet diaper.

ii. He tried to console the *crying* baby.

1. **Past Participle** (third form of the verb) e.g.

i. The *wounded* soldier was crawling in the forest.

ii. He was wearing a *torn* shirt.

1. **Perfect Participle**

(having+third form of the verb)

*e.g. i. Having finished* his work, Mukesh was ready to play.

ii. The child, *having found* its mother, was again happy.

**Note:** There are particples (non-finite ‘ing’ and ‘ed’ forms of verbs) which function like verb.

e.g i. *Looking* after my parents is my first priority.

ii. I was driving while *listening* to music.

iii. The students want their answer scripts re-evaluated.

iv. The librarian found the book stolen.