

## MEETING 4

# VERBS

### A. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To explain various verbs; present, past, participle, active, and passive.
2. To explain various tenses and modals

### B. THE AIMS OF THE TOPIC

1. Students are expected to understand various verbs: present, past, participle, active, and passive verbs.
2. Students are expected to understand various tenses and modals.

### C. GUIDANCE AND METHODS OF LEARNING

1. Lectures
2. Discussions
3. Presentations
4. Practices

### D. MATERIAL DESCRIPTION

## I. INTRODUCTION

### THE OLYMPICS

The word “Olympic” comes from the name of the town Olympia in Greece, where the ancient Olympic Games were always held. The first recorded Olympic Games were held in 776 BC; the Games took place every fourth year after that date until they were abolished by a Roman emperor in AD 394.

It was not until 1875, when archeologist discovered the ruins of the Olympic Stadium in Greece, that interest in the Games was renewed. Baron Pierre de Coubertin, a French scholar and educator, proposed that the Games should be revived as an international competition to encourage both sport and world peace.

The first modern Olympic Games were held in Athens in 1896. Like their classical predecessors, the athletes were men only; women were admitted to the Games in 1900. Since that time, the Games have been held at four-year intervals as

in ancient Greece. However, since de Coubertin's dream of world peace has not been realized, the two World Wars prevented those of 1916, 1944, and 1944 from being held.

The Olympic Games have been confined to amateur athletes despite a few recent exceptions. There are pressures on the Olympic authorities to admit other professional to the Games. Such a step would damage the entire concept of the Olympics. The following words appear on the scoreboard at every Olympics opening: "The most important thing is not to win but to take apart". In contrast, the aim of every professional is to win.

**Exercise 1:** Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

1. The word "Olympic" (come)..... from Olympia in Greece.
2. In AD 394, a Roman emperor (abolish) .....the Olympic Games.
3. In 1875 archeologist (discover) .....the ruins of the Olympic Stadium in Greece.
4. The French educator Pierre de Coubertin (propose) .....that the Games be revived.
5. Since 1896 the Olympic Games (be held) .....every four years with some exceptions.
6. In the Olympic Games of 1896 the athletes (be) .....men only.
7. Women (be admitted) .....in 1900.

**Exercise 2:** Correct the verb tenses in the following sentences where necessary

1. The Olympics have taken place every four years between 776 BC and AD 394.
2. Women started to participate in the Games in 1900.
3. From 1896 to the present, the Olympic Games were held every four years.
4. With a few recent exceptions, professional athletes do not take part in the Olympic Games.
5. With this interaction competition, Pierre de Coubertin has wanted to encourage both sport and World peace.
6. In 1916, 1940, and 1944 the Olympics Games have not taken place.

## II. GRAMMAR: VERBS

Verbs are tested in both the Structure and the Written Expression section of the exam.

### STRATEGY

It is important to:

1. Recognize the verb in a sentence (the verb is the action). Words that look like verbs such as gerund, infinitives, and participles are not verbs.
2. Check if the verb agrees with the subject (see the previous chapter)
3. Check if the tense of the verb is correct. The time words and the context will help you do this.

### 1. Tenses

The following tables review the verb tenses

Usage	Examples
<b>Present Continuous Tense</b>	
1. An activity that is in progress at the moment	Mary is watching TV right now.
2. A general activity that takes place this week/month/year/etc	I'm training for the Olympics
3. Future arrangements	I'm going to Sweden next winter.
<b>Simple present tense</b>	
1. A habitual action	I run every morning.
2. A general fact	The sun rises in the east.
3. A future timetables	The ticket office opens at 9am.
1. An action that began and ended at a specific time in the past	We won a gold medal last year..
2. An action that occurred over a	She skated for fifteen years.

period of time and was completed in the past 3. An activity that took place regularly in the past	She trained every morning before work.
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### **Past Continuous Tense**

1. An interrupted action	I was watching the Olympics on TV, when he walked in
2. A repeated or continuous state in the past	I was making many new friends at the Olympic Village

### **Future Tense (going to)**

1. Expressing a prior plan	My brother is going to go with me next week.
2. Predicting something that is likely to happen in the future	We are going to win. I know it.

### **Future tense (will)**

1. Predicting something that is likely happen in the future.	You will win the race. I know it.
2. Expressing willingness to do something.	I will go with you if you like. I will call you in a few minutes then.
3. Making a decision at the time of speaking	

### **Future Continuous Tense**

1. An action that will be continuing at a particular time in the future.	This time next week, I will be training for the race.
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### **Present Perfect Tense**

1. An action that happened at an unspecified time in the past	I have seen him on TV.
2. An action that has happened recently	She has just gone out.

3. An action that began in the past and continues in the present (usually with “for” and “since”)	She has been training for two years.
4. Repetition of an action before now.	He has been to the Olympics several time.

### **Present Perfect Continuous Tense**

1. Expressing the duration of an action that began in the past and continues in the present (with “for”, “since”, “all morning”, “all day”)	John has been swimming for two hours.
2. A general action in progress recently for which no specific time is mentioned.	I have been thinking about competing next year.
3. An action that began in the past and has just ended.	Have you been crying? Your eyes are red.

### **Past Perfect Tense**

1. A past action that occurred before another action in the past.	She had just left when I arrived there. He looked tired because he had been running for six hours
2. An action occurring recently before another action in the past.	

### **Future Perfect Tense**

1. An action that will be completed before a particular time in the future	By next July I will have participated in four Olympics
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### **Future Perfect Continuous Tense**

1. Expressing the duration of time that has occurred before a specific	By next May I will have been training at this gym for eleven years.
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time in the future	
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## 2. MODALS

A modal is always followed by the base form of a verb. The following is a list of some modals:

Can	may	will	shall	must	had better
Could	might	would	should	have to	ought to

A modal expresses mood or attitude:

Ability : She **can** run in the race.

Possibility : She **could** run in the race.

She **might** run in the race.

She **may** run in the race.

Advisability : She **had better** run in the race.

She **ought to** run in the race.

She **should** run in the race.

Necessity : She **must** run in the race.

She **has to** run in the race.

Intention : She **shall** run in the race.

She **will** run in the race.

Past Habit : She **would** run in the race.

### STRATEGY

Remember the correct word order for modals



8. The Olympics torch.....throughout the Games and is then extinguished at the closing ceremony.
- a. Burning                      b. is burned                      c. burn                      d. burns

### 3. PASSIVE VOICE

#### STRATEGY

A frequent error is to use an active verb instead of a passive or a passive instead of an active. Remember that if the subject does the action, the verb is active; if the subject receives the action, the verb is passive.

The passive is formed by *be + verb ending in ed* (past participle or an irregular past participle). In a passive sentence, the object of an active becomes the subject of the passive verb. The passive is used when the person or the thing is more important, or when the agent who did the action is not known.

Active                                      : Archeologist **discovered** the ruins.

Passive                                     : The ruins **were discovered** by archeologist.

The following table shows how to form the passive

Active	Passive
1. The flame <i>opens</i> the Games.	The Games <i>are opened</i> by the flame.
2. The flame <i>is opening</i> the Games.	The Games <i>are being opened</i> by the flame.
3. The flame <i>has opened</i> the Games.	The Games <i>has been opened</i> by the flame.
4. The flame <i>opened</i> the Games.	The Games <i>were opened</i> by the flame.
5. The flame <i>was opening</i> the Games.	The Games <i>were being opened</i> by the flame.
6. The flame <i>had opened</i> the Games.	The Games <i>had been opened</i> by the flame.
7. The flame <i>will open</i> the Games.	The Games <i>will be opened</i> by the flame.



8. The flame <i>is going to happen</i> the Games.	The Games <i>are going to be opened</i> by the flame.
9. The flame <i>will have opened</i> the Games.	The Games <i>will have been opened</i> by the flame.

**Exercise 4:** Place the verbs in parentheses in passive voice to complete the following sentences!

1. The first modern Olympic series (hold) .....in Athens in 1896.
2. The first Olympic Village (build) ..... for the Games in 1932.
3. The Olympic flag (fly) .....for the first time in 1920.
4. In 1936 Olympics, the orchestra (lead) .....by the composer Richard Strauss.
5. The Olympic Games (cancel) ..... in 1916 because of World War I.
6. The Summer Games (show) .....on TV for the first time in 1936.

#### 4. GERUNDS

##### STRATEGY

A gerund, an infinitive, or a participle is a verbal, not a verb. Gerunds or infinitives can never take the place of a main verb in a sentence. When there is a verb missing in one of the test items, make sure you choose a verb and not a verbal!

The gerund is formed by adding *-ing* to the base form of a verb. The gerund is used as a noun. It can function as a subject, object, or object of a preposition.

***Running*** is my favorite sport. (subject)

He tried ***running*** faster. (object)

She was tired of ***running***. (object of preposition)

When the gerund is the subject of the sentence, the verb is singular.

**a. Gerund after noun + preposition**

The following are some nouns + preposition that take gerunds:

Choice of	excuse for	intention of
Possibility of	reason for	method of/for

*He has no intention **of giving up** now.*

*There was no reason **for cancelling** the race.*

**b. Gerund after adjectives + preposition**

The following are some adjectives + preposition that take the gerund:

Accustomed to	afraid of	capable of
Fond of	good at	interested in
Successful in		tired of

*She is accustomed to **training** for many hours.*

*He is good at **running** the 200-m race.*

**c. Gerund after Verbs**

The following are some verbs that take the gerund

Admit deny	postpone	resume	risk	resist
Advise	discuss	practice	suggest	quit
Anticipate	enjoy	recall	tolerate	try
Avoid finish	recommend	understand	imagine	
Can't help	keep	regret	resent	mind
Consider	delay	miss	resist	

*He kept **running** until the end.*

*She enjoys **running** for the competition.*

**d. Gerund after verb + preposition (two-word verbs)**

The following are some two-word verbs that take the gerund:

Approve of	be better off	call for	confess to
Count on	depend on	give up	insist on
Keep on	look forward to	think of	rely on
Succeed in	think about	think of	worry about

*He **succeeded in** winning the race.*

*She did not **give up** hoping.*

**e. Gerunds or infinitive**

Some verbs can take either a gerund or an infinitive, with no differences in meaning. The following are verbs that can take either a gerund or an infinitive

Advise	dread	mean	remember
Agree	forget	neglect	start
Allow	hate	permit	stop
Attempt	intend	plan	study
Begin	leave	prefer	try
Continue	like	propose	
Dislike	love	regret	

*I love **watching** the track races.*

*I love **to watch** the track races.*

**2. Infinitives**

The infinitive is formed by adding *to* to the base form of a verb. The infinitive can be used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb.

To train is hard work. (noun)

She always has energy to spend. (adjective)

He ran to win. (adverb)

**a. Verbs that take the infinitive**

Agree	decide	hope	prepare	threaten
Appear	demand	intend	pretend	tend
Arrange	deserve	learn	promise	try
Ask	desire	manage	refuse	volunteer
Attempt	expect	mean	regret	wait
Beg	fail	need	seem	want
Care	forget	offer	struggle	wish
Claim	hire	order		

**b. Verb + noun/preposition + infinitive**

The following verbs can be followed by a noun/pronoun and an infinitive

Advise	convince	force	order	teach
Allow	challenge	hire	permit	tell
Ask	encourage	instruct	persuade	want
Cause	expect	invite	remind	warn
Need		require		

*He reminded me **to keep** calm.*

*I taught him **to swim**.*

**c. Adjective + infinitive**

The following are some adjectives that are followed by the infinitive:

Anxious	easy	hard	ready
Boring	good	please	strange
Dangerous	difficult	prepared	usual

*She was anxious **to hear** the results.*

*It is hard **to lose**.*

**Exercise 5:** Circle the best answer!

1. The authorities permitted women .....in track and field events in the 1928 Winter Games.  
a. To take part                      b. taking part
2. Because of lack of snow, three thousand Austrian soldier were hired.....in snow for the ski trails in 1964.  
a. Bringing                      b. to bring
3. In ancient Greece it was agreed .....wars for the Olympic Games.  
a. To stop                      b. stopping
4. Women were not allowed .....in more than three events in 1932.  
a. Participating                      b. to participate
5. The Roman Emperor Theodosius ordered the Games .....in AD 394.  
a. Stopping                      b. to stop
6. The two World Wars prevented the Olympics from .....place.  
a. Taking                      b. to take

**III. ON THE TOEFL TEST**

In the Structure section, verb errors may involve the following:

1. *A verb may not agree with its subject.* A singular subject requires a singular verb and a plural subject requires a plural verb.
2. *A verb may be in the wrong tense.* The time words and the context will indicate the correct tense.
3. *A verb may be in the active form instead of passive or vice versa.* If the subject does the action, the verb must be active; if the subject receives the action, the verb is passive.
4. *A verbal is not a verb.* A gerund or participle cannot be a main verb.

Ex: electronic timing .....for the first time in 1912 Olympics in Sweden.

- a. Were used                      b. was used                      c. using                      d. used

➔ The best answer is (b). (a) is incorrect because it is in gerund form and therefore requires a singular verb. (c) is incorrect because the –ing form is not a verb and a clause requires a verb. (d) is incorrect because the verb is active and a passive verb is needed.

In written expression section, verb errors often involve the following:

1. *A main verb may be used instead of a participle or vice versa.* The main verb, for example *eat* or *ate*, may be used instead of *eaten*, or the main verb *is eating* instead of *eating*.
2. *The gerund may be used instead of the infinitive.* For example, *eating* instead of *to eat*.
3. *The wrong infinitive form may be used.* For example, *make* may be used instead of *to make*.
4. *The wrong form of participle may be used.* The present participle may be used instead of the past participle or vice versa.

Ex: In the 1931 Winter Olympics many competitors were prevented from to participate  
A                      B                      C  
because of the economic depression.

D

➔ The best answer is C because an infinitive cannot be used after a preposition. The gerund form participating must be used.

#### IV. EXERCISES ON VERBS

1. The first systematic chart ever made of an ocean current .....by Benjamin Franklin.
  - a. Published
  - b. Was published
  - c. publishing
  - d. has been published
2. Petroleum .....on every continent and beneath every ocean.
  - a. Is found
  - b. found
  - c. are found
  - d. find
3. Animals .....on Earth for at least 700 million years.
  - a. Living
  - b. lived
  - c. have lived
  - d. have been lived
4. During the Ice Age, glaciers.....and retreated several times over large areas of the earth.
  - a. Had been advanced
  - b. Were advance
  - c. have advanced
  - d. advanced
5. Some fish .....distortion of electrical field through special receptors.
  - a. Sense
  - b. are sensing
  - c. are sensed
  - d. senses
6. The widespread use of oil and gas to make chemicals..... during the 1920s.
  - a. Has begun
  - b. began
  - c. beginning
  - d. begun

**Directions:** Identify the one that is incorrect!

7. The American architect Frank Lloyd Wright developed a theory of architecture  
A  
stressed the needs of the people who used it.  
B C D
8. Pelicans have a long, straight bill with a flexible pouch makes of skin on the  
A B C  
underside.  
D

9. In so many countries, octopuses and snails are considered being great delicacies  
A B C

to eat.

D

10. Many dyslexics have difficulty to remembering the sequence of letters in a word  
A B C

and in distinguishing right from left.

D

11. Men and women in the Peace Corp work with people in developing countries to  
A B

help them improving their living conditions.

C

D

12. Seahorses spend much of their time clung with their tails to underwater plants.  
A B C D