

## 9. Verbs

### CONJUGATION:

In English language every principal verb has three chief parts namely:

- Present tense
- Past tense
- Past participle
- To write the three chief parts of a principal verb is called conjugation.

#### Present Tense

Arise  
Bear( produce)  
Bear(carry)  
Blow  
Burst  
Broadcast  
Fly  
Overflow  
Take  
Spring  
Sow  
Strew  
Writhe  
Bled  
Lead

#### Past Tense

Arose  
Bore  
Bore  
Blew  
Burst  
Broadest  
Flew  
Overflowed  
Took  
Sprang  
Sowed  
Strewed  
Writhed  
Bled  
Led

#### Past Participle

Arisen  
Born, borne  
Borne  
Blown  
Burst  
Broadcast  
Flown  
Overflowed  
Taken  
Sprung  
Sown  
Strewn  
Writhed  
Bled  
Led

### TENSES:

The feature of a verb that shows the time of an action and its degree of completeness is called the tense of a verb. According to general life, the main tenses are of three in number:

1. Present tense
2. Past tense
3. Future tense

To each tense, there are four different forms:

1. **Simple Tense:** Which denotes present, past, or future time in its simplest form.
2. **Continuous Tense:** This denotes that the events are still continuing or not yet completed.
3. **Perfect Tense:** This denotes that the event is in a completed or perfect state just before that time of reporting.
4. **Perfect Continuous Tense:** Which combines the perfect and continuous forms (the actions that commence sometime in the past but continue up to the time of reporting)

**Present Tense:**

Subject Person & Number	Simple	Continuous	Perfect	Perfect Continuous
<b>First Person</b>				
<b>Singular Number: I</b>	I go	I am going	I have gone	I have been going
<b>Plural Number: We</b>	We go	We are going	We have gone	We have been going
<b>Second Person</b>				
<b>Singular Number: You</b>				
<b>Plural Number: You</b>	You go	You are going	You have gone	You have been going
<b>Third Person</b>				
<b>Singular Number: He, She, It</b>	He goes She goes It goes	He is going She is going It is going	He has gone She has gone It has gone	He has been going She has been going It has been going

<b>Plural Number:</b> <i>They</i>	They go	They are going	They have gone	They have been going
<b>Past Tense:</b>				
Subject Person & Number	Simple	Continuous	Perfect	Perfect Continuous
<b>First Person</b>				
<b>Singular Number:</b> I	I Went	I was going	I had gone	I had been going
<b>Plural Number:</b> We	We went	We were going	We had gone	We had been going
<b>Second Person</b>				
<b>Singular Number:</b> you				
<b>Plural Number:</b> You	You went	You were going	You had gone	You had been going
<b>Third Person</b>				
<b>Singular Number:</b> He, She, It	He went She went It went	He was going She was going It was going	He had gone She had gone It had gone	He had been going She had been going It had been going

<b>Plural</b> <b>Number:</b> <i>They</i>	They went	They were going	They had gone	They had been going
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**Future Tense:**

Subject Person & Number	Simple	Continuous	Perfect	Perfect Continuous
<b>First Person</b>				
<b>Singular</b> <b>Number:</b> <i>I</i>	I shall go	I shall be going	I shall have gone	I shall have been going
<b>Plural</b> <b>Number:</b> <i>We</i>	We shall go	We shall be going	We shall have gone	We shall have been going
<b>Second Person</b>				
<b>Singular</b> <b>Number:</b> <i>You</i>	You will go	You will be going	You will have gone	You will have been going
<b>Plural</b> <b>Number:</b> <i>You</i>				
<b>Third Person</b>				
<b>Singular</b> <b>Number:</b> <i>He, She, It</i>	He will go She will go It will go	He will be going She will be going It will be going	He will have gone she will have gone It will have gone	He will have been going She will have been going It will have been going
<b>Plural</b> <b>Number:</b> <i>They</i>	They will go	They will be going	They will have gone	They will have been going

**Active Voice and Passive Voice:**

A transitive verb has two voices, the active and passive.

- **Active Voice:** Here the person or thing denoted by subject is said to do something.

**Example:** Rama killed a snake. (here the person denoted by the subject, namely, Rama, does something to a snake)

- **Passive Voice:** Here the person or thing is said to suffer something from some other person or thing

**Example:** A snake was killed by Rama. (here the thing denoted by the subject, namely, a snake, suffers something from Rama)

**Forms of Verbs and Tenses in Active and Passive Voices:**

- **Simple Tenses:**

Tense	Active Voice	Passive Voice
Simple Present Tense	Write or writes	Is/am/are + Written
Simple Past Tense	Wrote	Was/were + Written
Simple Future Tense	Shall/Will + Write	Shall/Will + Be + Written

- **Continuous Tenses:**

Tense	Active Voice	Passive Voice
Present Continuous Tense	Is/am/are + Writing	Is/am/are + being+Written
Past continuous Tense	Was/were + Writing	Was/were + being+Written

- **Perfect Tenses:**

Tense	Active Voice	Passive Voice
Present Perfect Tense	Has/have + Written	Has + Have + been + Written
Past Perfect Tense	Had + Written	Had + Been + Written
Future Perfect Tense	Shall/will + have + Written	Shall/Will + have + been+ Written

**Active and Passive Structures for Impersonal or Modal Verbs**

Active Voice	Passive Voice
Should	Should
Would	Would
Can	Can
Could	Could
May	May
Might	Might
Must	Must

**Note:** In passive voice the passive structure of the verb is always followed by the preposition "by". But for the following ten verbs the prepositions are different from "by" in passive voice:

Verbs in Passive Voice	The Preposition Instead of "by"
Please, Satisfy, Throng, Line	With
Surprise, Astonish, Vex, Annoy	At
Know	To
Contain	In

**"If" Clauses or Conditional Clauses:**

- When the verb in "if" clause contains the verb in simple present tense, the verb in the principal clause must be in simple future tense.

**Example:** The prices of food grains will shoot up ("will shoot up" is a verb), if the crop yield is (verb) not good.

- When the verb in "if" clause is in simple past tense, the verb in the principal clause must be in conditional past tense.

**Conditional past tense:**

Should

Would + Verb of Present Tense

Could

Might

**Example:** If she wrote (simple past) the examination well, she should get ("should get" is a conditional past) first class.

- When the verb in "if" clause is in past perfect tense, the verb in principal clause must be in conditional perfect tense.

**Conditional perfect Tense:**

Should

Would+ Have + Verb of Past Participle Form

Could

Might

**Example:** If he had gone (past perfect tense) late to the railway station, he would have missed ("should have missed" is a conditional perfect tense) the train.

**Expression of Condition by the Method of Inversion:**

In this method of inversion, the conditions are expressed by placing "had" or "should" before the subject. On this occasion the conjunction "if" must not be used in the sentence.

**Example:**

- Had she written the examinations well, she should have scored distinction.
- Had he attended the interview, he could have got selection.
- Should he meet me, he would know me at once.

**The Infinitive (To + Verb of present tense):**

This structure is formed with the preposition "to" follow by verb of present tense. This structure names the action, without naming the doer. Therefore the structure has no number, no person, and no tense, hence it is not a finite but infinitive.

**The forms of the infinitive:**

The forms of the infinitives mood are four in number, two relating to present time two to past.

	Form	Active Voice	Passive Voice
<b>Present</b>	Simple	To send	To be sent
	Continuous	To be sending	(Wanting)
<b>Past</b>	Perfect	To have sent	To have been sent
	Perfect Continuous	To have been sending	(Wanting)

There is no future form of the infinitive mood.

**Infinitive without "to":**

Omission of 'To' – The word "To" is usually the sign of the infinitive mood. But it is omitted:

- After the following principal verbs:

Hear, See, Need, Feel, Dare, Make, Let, Bid, Watch, Behold, Know

**Example:**

- I heard him speak (to speak) on several subjects.
- I saw him take (to take) aim with his rifle.
- He made me come (to come) and sit (to sit) beside him.

- After auxiliary verbs.

**Example:**

- He shall go
- I should go

- After the verb "had", in such phrases as, "had better", "had rather", "had sooner", "had as soon as".

**Example:**

- He had better not (to remain) remain here.
- I had sooner run (to run) than walk (to walk).
- I had as soon run (to run) as walk (to walk).

- After the conjunction "than".

**Example:** He is better able to walk than run (to run).

- After the preposition "but" provided it is preceded by the verb "do".

**Example:** He did nothing but laugh (to laugh).

**The Kinds of Infinitive:**

There are two kinds of infinitives:

**Noun Infinitives:**

These infinitives may be used as:

- Subject to a verb.

**Example:** To err is human – to forgive is divine.

- Object to verb.

**Example:** They expect to succeed

- Complement to verb.

**Example:** Her greatest pleasure is to dance.



- Object to preposition.

**Example:** He was about to die.

### The Gerundial or Qualifying Infinitives:

This infinitives can be used as:

- To qualify a verb in the sense of purpose cause or result.

**Example:**

- He came to town to see the sports. (purpose)
- He wept to see that sight. (cause)
- He worked hard only to fail at last. (result)

- To qualify a noun in the sense of purpose.

**Example:**

- A house to let.
- Give me a chair to sit on.
- This house is to let.

- To qualify an adjective in the sense of respect or purpose.

**Example:** Quick to hear, and slow to speak.

**Note:** As a general rule, care should be taken not to split the infinitive i.e. to separate "to" and verb.

### THE PARTICIPLE:

A participle is a form of verb that functions as an adjective.

### Transitive Verbs:

	Active Voice	Passive Voice
Present or Continuous	Loving	Being loved
Past Continuous	(Wanting)	Having wanted
Perfect	Having loved	Having been loved

**Intransitive Verbs:**

	Active Voice
<b>Present or Continuous</b>	Fading
<b>Past Continuous</b>	Faded
<b>Perfect</b>	Having faded

A participle is a double part of speech – a verb and an adjective combined. So it has two characters;

- As part of a finite verb:
  - The passive structures of all tenses are formed.
  - All the continuous tenses in active voice are formed out of the verb form “be”.
  - The perfect tenses in the active voice are formed out of the verb “have” followed by the past participle.
- As an adjective a participle belongs to descriptive class:
  - Qualifies a noun.  
**Example:** Tired of work, the men went home.
  - To be qualified by an adverb.  
**Example:** The man was picked up in an almost dying state.
  - Admit of degrees of comparison.  
**Example:** This flower is more faded than that.
  - Be converted to a noun.  
**Example:** Let bygones be bygones.

**Usages of Past Participle as Participle:**

- If verb is transitive the past participle is never used in active voice, but only passive.  
**Example:** This much – praised man proved to be a rogue.
- If verb is intransitive the past participle is not used at all in most verbs. But whenever it used, it must precede its noun and not follow it.  
**Example:** Faded rose, A broken heart, A departed guest, etc.

**Note:** The past participles of verbs are sometimes used to express some permanent habit, state or character.

**Example:** A well-read man, A well behaved man, An outspoken man etc.

From this use of the past participle has arisen a large class of adjectives which are formed

from nouns by adding “ed” to the end of the noun.

**Example:** A noble minded man, A thick skinned fellow, A hot headed man.

### Usages of Participle:

Since participle qualifies nouns or pronouns, they may be used as:

- Attributively

**Example:** A willing horse, Rolling stone, A lost opportunity

- Predicatively

**Example:** We found him reading a novel.

- Nominative Absolute: Absolutely with a noun or pronoun going before it.

**Example:** Weather permitting, We shall go for a walk, It being fine, We went out

**Note:** The noun or pronoun going before the participle is said to be absolute, because it is neither the subject nor the object to any finite verb but stands alone with the participle. It is called the nominative absolute.

- When no noun or pronoun is placed before a absolute participle, the participle is practically a preposition. Such a participle is sometimes called an impersonal absolute.

**Example:**

- Supposing this to be true, he is certainly innocent
- Speaking confidentially, he is guilty of the offence

**Note:** When some times the participles imply further meanings like cause or reason, condition and concession or contrast, the expression must be preferred in the form of a clause.

The implied meanings are:

- Time

**Example:**

- Looking through some old papers, I came across this letter. (wrong)
- While I was looking through, I came across this letter. (Right)

- Cause or reason

**Example:**

- Being tired, he sat down to rest. (Wrong)
- Because he was tired he sat down to rest. (Right)

- Condition

**Example:**

- Turning to the left, you will find the place you want. (Wrong)
- If you turn to the left, you will find the place you want. (Right)

- Concession or contrast

**Example:**

- Admitting what you say, I still think that you made a mistake. (Wrong)
- Although I admit what you say, I still think that you made a mistake. (Right)

**The Unrelated Participle or Misplaced Modifier or Dangling Modifier:**

A participle must not be unrelated or falsely related. Since it is an adjective, it must qualify a noun or a pronoun.

**Example:**

- Walking down the road, the clock struck one. (Wrong)  
(Here the participle refers to the noun "clock". It means that the clock was walking down the road when it struck one.) So the correct form is –
- Walking down the road I heard the clock struck one. (Correct)
- Being a fine day we went for a picnic. (Wrong)
- It being a fine day, we went for a picnic. (correct)
- Entering the room, the light was quite dim. (Wrong)
- Entering the room, I found the light quite dim. (correct)

**THE GERUND:**

A Gerund is a verbal noun. It has the following four forms.

	Active	Passive
Present or Continuous	Loving	Being loved
Perfect	Having loved	Having been loved

**Double Character of Gerund:**

- As a kind of noun:
  - Subject to a verb – Sleeping is necessary to life.
  - Object to a verb - He enjoyed sleeping in the open air.
  - Complement to a verb – His almost constant habit was sleeping.
  - Object to a preposition – He was fond of sleeping.

**The usage of gerund:**

- A possessive adjective or a noun in the genitive case is used before a gerund:

**Example:** I was pleased with its communication savings.

- As part of a verb:

**Example:** The children are playing in play ground.

**Note:** A possessive adjective or a noun in the genitive case is used before a gerund.

**Example:**

- I was pleased at his coming today.
- He was displeased at the barber's not coming.

**Correct Usage of Tenses:**

- **Simple Present Tense:**

- Regular actions
- Habitual actions
- Planned and confirmed future action
- Vivid and historical narrations
- The actions, when a clause contains any one of the adverbs like – always, never, generally, regularly and usually
- Universal facts

- **The Present Continuous Tense:**

- The actions going on at the time of speaking.
- Planned future actions.
- Sometimes a habit or a custom.
- When a clause contains any one of the adverbs of time like - "now, at present, at the moment".

- **Present Perfect Tense:**

- The actions that stand completed just a few minutes, or a few moments before reporting.
- The actions that completed at some time in the past but the time of completion of the action is not known.
- An action that stands completed in past but whose effect stands at present up to the time of reporting.
- To express an action that commences in the past but continues up to the time of reporting by not using the structure with principal verb.

**Example:** We have been in Hyderabad since 1969.

- The actions when the clause contains either of the words like "just" or "yet".

- **Present Perfect Continuous Tense:** This tense expresses the actions that start sometime in the past but continues up to the time of reporting.

**Example:** We have been living in Hyderabad since 1969.

- **Simple Past Tense:**

- The completed actions. (A completed action and action related to present perfect tense must not be confused and mistaken for each other)
- Actions in such clauses which contain any one of the adverbs like ago, yesterday, the previous day last night / week / month / year, once, long ago, long back,.

- **Past Continuous Tense:** This tense is used to express The actions that stand in continuation at a particular time in past

- **Past Perfect Tense:** When two past actions are expressed in past tense, the past action treated to be earlier is reported in past perfect tense whereas the subsequent action is reported in simple past tense.

- **Simple Future tense:** This tense expresses a plain and colourless future.

- **Future Continuous Tense:** This tense represents an action going on at some point in future time.

- **The Future Perfect Tense:** This tense is used to denote not only the completion of some event in future but also denotes the completion or commencement of event in past time.

- **Future Perfect Continuous Tense:** This tense not only expresses an action that commences in future but also stands in continuation up to the time of reporting.

### Correct Usage of Auxiliaries:

- **Be:** "Is, Am, Are, Was, and Were" are its other forms. These forms are used:
  - To function as principal intransitive verbs in the meaning of existence.
  - To form continuous tenses in present and past tenses.
  - To form passive structures in passive voice for simple present tense and past tense.
  - To express a polite command when followed by an infinitive structure.
- **Have:** "Have, has and had" are its forms. These forms are useful:
  - To function as principal transitive verbs in the meaning of possession.
  - (Though they are transitive, they do not have passive voice. Because the word "have" doesn't have past participle form)
  - To form perfect tenses.
  - To express obligation when followed by an infinitive structure.
- **Shall:** "Should" is its past equivalent form.
  - Shall is used -
    - To express future tense with subject words of first person.
    - To express an order or a commanding expression with the subject words of second and third person.
  - Should is used -
    - To express compulsion felt by only speaker.
    - To express moral advice or moral values or elderly sayings.
- **Will:** Would is its past equivalent form.
  - Will is used -
    - To express future tense with subject words of second and third persons.
    - Promises and assurances with subject words of first person.
  - Would is used -
    - To express strong desires.
    - To express polite way of request.
    - To extend polite ways of invitations.
    - To express regular habits.
- **Can:** Could is the past equivalent form. Can is used -
  - To express capacity or capability.

- To grant permission.

**Note:**

- When negative expression is expressed, the words "Can" and "Not", must be written as one word i.e.; "cannot"
- When the word can "is present in a clause, the word able" must not be present in any form

The verb "could" is used to make a polite way of request.

- **May:** "Might" is its past equivalent form. The word may is used to express
  - A purpose or a wish.

**Example:**

- He eats that he may live. (purpose)
- May heaven protect you! (wish)

- To seek permission

**Example:** May I go for water?

- To express possibility or probability.

**Example:** It may be true.

- **Must:** This verb usually relates to present or future time. This is used to express -
  - Sense of necessity or compulsion.

**Example:** We must work or perish.

- In the sense of a strong intention.

**Example:** I must finish this work before I go.

- In the sense of strong inference or certainty.

**Example:**

- He must be dead by now. (inference)
- He must be mad. (certainty )

- In the sense of duty or to express statutory obligations

**Example:**

- A judge must be just. (duty)
- One must pay one's taxes within the time. (statutory duty)

- **Dare:** This verb is used in the sense of "having courage". In this sense the third present singular is "dare" not "dares", provided it is followed by negative.

**Example:**

- He dare not say what he thinks. (negative)
- He dares to stand alone. (affirmative)



- **Need:** This is a principal verb signifying “require, want”. The third person singular is “need” and not “needs”, just as “dare” is used for “dares”, provided it is followed by a negative nature.  
**Example:** He need not do any more work.
- **Ought:** This verb is used in the sense of duty. The verb “ought” is transitive and the infinitive following is its object.  
**Example:**
  - We ought to love our parents.
  - We ought to help poor.
- **Used:** This verb is used to express discontinued habits. It is usually followed by an infinitive structure.  
**Example:** He used to walk 5 km every morning when he was at the age of 20.
- **Do:** “Does” and “did” are its other forms. These forms are useful -
  - To functions as principal transitive verbs in the meaning of “perform”.
  - To function as auxiliaries in the present and past tenses to form questions and negative meanings.
  - As a pro-verb or substitute – verb, to avoid repetition of a previous verb.**Example:** He works harder than you do (= work).

### Agreement of Verb With Subject:

A finite verb must be in the same number and person as its subject.

- Two or more singular nouns, when they are joined by “and”, require a verb in the plural.

**Example:** Time and tide wait for none.

There are two exceptions -

- If the two nouns joined by “and” refer to the same person or thing, the verb is singular and not plural.

**Example:** The great scholar and poet is dead.

Here the poet and scholar refer to the same man. On this occasion the definite article is present only before the first noun i.e. the noun before conjunction.

But if the article is mentioned twice before the two nouns connected by the conjunction and, the subject is plural and verb is plural.

**Example:** The manager and the accountant have come to office today.

- If the two nouns joined by “and” are regarded as denoting a single subject or notion, the verb is singular.

**Example:**

- Truth and honesty is the best policy.
- Slow and steady wins the race.

- When two or more singular subjects are connected by or, nor, either – or, neither – nor, the verb is singular.

**Example:** Either James or John is to be promoted.

Cautions:

- When the subjects connected by any one of the above conjunctions, are of different persons, the verb agrees in person with the subject nearer to it.

**Example:** Either James or I am at the top of the class.

- When anyone of the subjects connected by anyone of the above conjunctions, is singular and the other plural, the plural subject should be placed next to the verb so as to make the verb plural.

**Example:** Neither the cock nor the hens were found in backyard.

- When two or more singular subject words are connected by “as well as” the verb agrees with the subject before “as well as”.

**Example:**

- The teacher as well as his children has visited the science exhibition.
- The students as well as the principal were involved in the incident.

- When two subject words are connected by “with, together with, in addition to”, the verb agrees with the first subject word.

**Example:** The mother, with her two children, is standing outside.

- When two singular subjects are connected by, “not only but also”, the verb is singular.

**Example:** Not only silver, but also gold, is mined in this country.

Caution:

- If the two subjects differ from each other in number or person or both, the verb takes the number and person of the subject that stands last.

**Example:** Not only the master but also his servants were blamed for the accident.

- Each, Every / Either, Neither - The noun following these adjectives is always singular and therefore the verb is also singular.

**Example:**

- Each of them was presented with a gold medal.
  - Every bush and tree is in bud.
  - Neither of these men has been before.
  - Either of the novels is worth reading.
- When the subject of the verb is a relative pronoun, the verb agrees in the number and person with the antecedent of the relative.

**Example:**

- I, who am your king, will lead you.
  - He, who is my friend, should help me.
  - He is one of the best readers that have ever lived.
- A plural noun, when it represents a single quantity or mass, or when it is the title of the book, is followed by a singular verb.

**Example:**

- The "Adventures of Robinson Crusoe", is a fine book
- Seven hundred rupees a month is not a good income.
- 60 miles is not a long distance.

