

THE VERBALS

NON-FINITE FORMS

NO

- person, number, mood
- predicate

YES

- tense and voice distinctions (relative)
- Double nature (nominal and verbal)
- Predicative constructions

NON-FINITE FORMS

- The participle
- The gerund
- The infinitive

THE INFINITIVE

a noun derives from a verb stem

Characteristics

Nominal

- Subject

To do that was dangerous

- Predicative

Her plan was to marry him

- Object

He never learnt to read

Verbal

- Take a direct object

He liked to read poetry

- Modified by an adverb

I cannot do it so fast

- Voice and tense distinctions

Tense and voice distinctions

	Active	Passive
Indefinite (Simple)	to write	to be written
Continuous	to be writing	
Perfect	to have written	to have been written
Perfect Continuous	to have been writing	

The indefinite (simple) infinitive

expresses an action simultaneous with the action expressed by the finite verb. It may refer to the present, past or future.

- *I am glad to meet you.*
- *I was glad to see Mr. Paul.*
- *Mr. Forsyte will be very glad to see you.*

The continuous infinitive

also denotes an action simultaneous with that expressed by the finite verb, but it is the action in the progress.

- *He is sure to be working in the laboratory.*
- *They must be still having a rest at the sea.*

The perfect infinitive

denotes an action prior to the action expressed by the finite verb.

- *«I am glad to have seen you» he said.*
- *I am glad to have taken your advice.*
- *I am sorry not to have been present at the meeting.*

The perfect continuous infinitive

denotes an action which lasted a certain time before the action of the finite verb. It is not only a tense form, but also an aspect form.

- *All this time the boy seemed to have been admiring you greatly.*

The voice distinctions

The infinitive of transitive verbs has special forms for the active and the passive voice.

- *It is so glorious to love and to be loved*
- *The translation must be done in time.*
- *It can't be changed overnight.*
- There is no time to lose. / There is no time to be lost.

'BARE' INFINITIVE

1) After auxiliary verbs:

I don't understand the meaning of this passage.

2) After modal verbs except the verb *ought*:

If one cannot have what one loves, one must love what one has.

3) After verbs denoting sense perception,:

I never saw you look so before.

We often heard her sing over the radio.

4) After the verb to let:

Let him go now.

Let us be friends.

5) After the verbs to make, to have in the meaning of «заставлять»

What makes you think so?

I had them take my baggage.

BUT

- *He was heard to mention your name several times*
- *They were seen to leave the house early in the morning*

6) After the expressions **had better, would rather, would sooner, cannot but, nothing but, cannot choose but; need scarcely (only, hardly):**

You had better go to bed.

I would rather not speak upon the subject.

I cannot but think so.

There was nothing left for him to do but watch and wait.

7) In sentences of a special type (infinitive sentence) beginning with «why» when the infinitive has the force of a predicate:

Why not come and talk to her yourself?