



VERBS

Verbs in English take different forms.

Simple (Infinitive)	Simple Present	Simple Past	Present Participle	Participle (usually -ed form)
talk	talk/talks	talked	talking	have/has/had talked
look	look/looks	looked	looking	have/has/had looked
force	force / forces	forced	forcing	have/has/had forced
Irregular				
go	go/goes	went	going	have/has/had gone
have	have/has	had	having	have/has/had had
be	am/is	was/were	being	have/has/had been
get	get/gets	got	getting	have/has/had gotten



VERBS

The inflections (endings) of English verb forms are not difficult to remember. There are only four basic forms. Instead of forming complex tense forms with endings, English uses auxiliary verb forms. English does not even have a proper ending for future forms; instead, we use auxiliaries such as "I am going to read this afternoon." or "I will read." or even "I am reading this book tomorrow." It would be useful, however, to learn these four basic forms of verb construction.

Name of verb	Base form	Past form	Present participle	Past participle
to work	I can work. I work.	I worked.	I am working.	I have worked.
to write	I can write. I write.	I wrote.	I am writing.	I have written.

VERBS

Tense shows the time of a verb's action or being. There are three inflected forms reflected by changes in the endings of verbs. The present tense indicates that something is happening or being now: "She is a student. She drives a new car." The simple past tense indicates that something happened in the past: "She was a student. She drove a new car." And the past participle form is combined with auxiliary verbs to indicate that something happened in the past prior to another action: "She has been a student. She had driven a new car."

Unlike most other languages, English does not have inflected forms for the future tense. Instead, English future forms are created with the use of auxiliaries: "She will be a student. She is going to drive a new car." English can even create the future by using the present tense, "The bus arrives later this afternoon," or the present progressive, "He is relocating to Portland later next month."

Do you remember direct objects?

A **direct object** is the receiver of action within a sentence, as in "He hit the ball." Be careful to distinguish between a **direct object** and an **or object complement**:

* They named their daughter **Natasha**.

In that sentence, "**daughter**" is the **direct object** and "**Natasha**" is the **object complement**, which renames or describes the **direct object**.

Do you remember indirect objects?

The **indirect object** identifies to or for whom or what the action of the verb is performed. The direct object and **indirect object** are different people or places or things. The **direct objects** in the sentences below are in boldface; the **indirect objects** are in *italics*.

- * The instructor gave his *students* **A's**.
- * Grandfather left *Rosalita and Raoul* all his **money**.
- * Jo-Bob sold *me* her **boat**.

Incidentally, the word *me* (and similar object-form pronouns such as *him, us, them*) is not always an indirect object; it will also serve, sometimes, as a direct object.

Transitive Verbs?

Transitive verbs

Some **verbs** require an object to complete their meaning:

"She gave _____?"

Gave what?

She *gave* money to the church?

She *gave* the flu to Jeremy?

She *gave* it all away for free?

These verbs are called **transitive**.

Intransitive Verbs?

Intransitive verbs

Verbs that are intransitive do not require objects:

"I *ran*."

"Larry *overslept*."

Here is a hint for you in standardized testing or for Trivial Pursuit. "In" is a prefix meaning "not." If you can remember that, you can remember that intransitive verbs do not have an object.

VERBALS

Verbals are words that seem to carry the idea of action or being but do not function as a true verb. They act as another part of speech. They are sometimes called "nonfinite" (unfinished or incomplete) verbs. Because time is involved with all verb forms, whether finite or nonfinite, however, following a logical Tense Sequence is important. Verbals are frequently accompanied by other, related words in what is called a verbal phrase.

gerunds

infinitives

participles

gerunds

Gerund: a verb form, ending in -ing, which acts as a **noun**.

"**Running** in the park after dark can be dangerous."

Gerunds are frequently accompanied by other associated words making up a gerund phrase ("running in the park after dark"). Because gerunds and gerund phrases are nouns, they can be used in any way that a noun can be used:

subject:

Being king can be dangerous for your health.

object of the verb:

He didn't particularly like **being king**.

object of a preposition:

He wrote a book about **being king**.

infinitives

Infinitive: the root of a verb introduced by the word *to*.
To sleep, perchance *to dream*.

A **present infinitive** describes a present condition: "I like *to sleep*."
The **perfect infinitive** describes a time earlier than that of the verb:
"I would like to *have won* that game."

The **infinitive** may be used as a **noun**, **adjective** or **adverb**.

Noun: *To swim* the English Channel is a thrill.

Adjective: The urge *to swim* in tropical water is more common.

Adverb: If it were easy *to swim* the English Channel, more people would do it.

participles

Participle: a verb form (changed by adding *-ed* or *-ing*) that acts as an adjective but also retains some of the characteristics of a verb. It might be thought of as a verbal adjective.

The **running** dog chased the **fluttering** moth.
That **learned** man reads and writes many books.

A present participle (like running) describes a present condition; a past participle describes something that has happened: "The completely **rotted** tooth finally fell out of his mouth."

The distinction is important to the meaning of a sentence; there is a huge difference between a **confusing** student and a **confused** student.

Mood

The **indicative mood** is used to make a statement or ask a question.

Do you work at this school?

I work at this school.

Mood

The **imperative mood** is used when we're feeling sort of bossy and want to give a directive, strong suggestion, or order:

- Get your homework done before you watch television tonight!
- Please include cash payment with your order form.
- Get out of town!

Mood

The **subjunctive mood** is used in dependent clauses that do the following:

- 1) express a wish
- 2) begin with *if* and express a condition that does not exist (is contrary to fact);
- 3) begin with *as if* and *as though* when such clauses describe a speculation or condition contrary to fact
- 4) begin with *that* and express a demand, requirement, request, or suggestion.

Examples:

- * She wishes her boyfriend were here.
- * If Juan were more aggressive, he'd be a better hockey player.
- * We would have passed if we had studied harder.
- * He acted as if he were guilty.
- * I requested that he be present at the hearing.

The subjunctive is not as important a mood in English as it is in other languages, like French and Spanish, which happen to be more subtle and discriminating in hypothetical, doubtful, or wishful expressions. Many situations which would require the subjunctive in other languages are satisfied by using one of several auxiliary verbs in English.

