

Finite and Non-Finite Verbs

Finite Verb: A verb that is limited by the subject's number and person.

- Example: "I have given him money." (Finite verb: "have given")

Non-Finite Verb: A verb that does not change according to the subject's number or person.

- Example: "I like to give him money today." (Non-Finite verb: "to give")

Forms of Non-Finite Verbs

Non-finite verbs are divided into three forms:

1. Infinitives
2. Gerunds
3. Participles

Infinitive

An infinitive acts like a noun and has some features of a verb. It is usually preceded by "to," although "to" can be omitted in certain cases.

Forms of Infinitive:

- Purpose: "She comes here to study."
- Passive voice: "Everyone desires to be admired."
- Perfect infinitive: "He admitted to have abused him."
- Perfect passive: "He admitted to have been arrested last year."
- Continuous infinitive: "He seems to be running out of money."
- Perfect continuous, time expression: "He admitted to have been spying for the enemy for some time."
- Subject: "To err is human."

Rules of Infinitive

Rule I: Verb/Adjective/Noun + Infinitive

- Active voice: "She comes here to study."
- Passive voice: "Nobody likes to be cheated."
- No verb: "Everyone desires to be rich."
- Subject: "To err is human."

Verbs and adjectives that are often followed by infinitives: agree, happy, desire, need, dare, hope, expect, decide, want, wish, refuse, eager, fail, glad, happy, hard, easy.

How + Infinitive:

When the infinitive is used to express manner:

- "He knows how to write English."
- "We taught him how to cook food."

Rule II: Difference between "To" and "For"

- "I went to see him." (Correct for purpose)

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- "I went for seeing him." (Incorrect)

For + Gerund: Used for actions showing cause (past actions):

- "He will punish you for breaking the pen."
- "He punished you for coming late."

For + Gerund: Showing purpose for which the subject is used:

- "This book is for reading."
- "This machine is for measuring height."
- "The house is to let." (Correct)

For + Noun: Used for purpose in place of to + verb:

- "We come here for a drive."
- "Sameer requested for a rest."
- "Esha went for a walk."

To + Gerund: Used with certain verbs and phrases:

- "She is used to swimming at dawn."
- "Esha came here with a view to studying."

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Rule III: Direct Infinitive

In certain cases, the infinitive is used without "to":

After "need" and "dare" in negative and interrogative sentences when used as auxiliaries:

- "He need not work hard."
- "Need he work there now?"
- "He dare not go in the dark."
- "Dare he go in the dark?"

Direct Infinitive: Used after verbs such as "let, bid, make, know, help, feel, hear, watch, see."

- Active voice: "I made the student write an essay."
- Passive voice: "The student was made to write an essay."

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Phrases with Direct Infinitive: "had better, had rather, would rather, would better, as soon, sooner than (prefer)."

- "I would/had better leave your house at once."
- "She would/had rather stay than leave now."

Direct Infinitive: Used with conjunctions "but, than, and, except, as, or."

- "He did nothing but cry."
- "She did no more than sleep the whole day."
- "She had nothing to eat except drink water."

Direct Infinitive: Used with phrases "Why not & Why."

- "Why not rest now?"
- "Why stay here?"

Have + Object: Used in the sense of "wish."

- "I will have him believe it."
- "She will have me recite this poem."

Won't + have + object + gerund: Used in the sense of "won't allow."

- "I won't have you talking like that."
- "I won't have you staying at Meerut."

Rule IV: Perfective Infinitive

Perfect infinitive is used when the action expressed by the infinitive precedes the action of the finite verb.

- "He admitted to have uttered these words against me."

Verbs where perfect infinitive may be used: deny, confess, admit, recollect, remember, recall, claim, regret, seem, appear, report, believe, understand, say, allege, suspect, learn, require, suppose, etc.

- "She denied to have seen him yesterday."
- "He appears to have been rich earlier."

Rule V: Use of Infinitive after Adjective and Noun

Adjective "enough" is used after an adjective or "very" before an adjective when an infinitive expresses affirmative meaning.

- "She is too ill to go out."
- "She is good enough to help me."

Noun Preposition: Use if required after the infinitive when it qualifies the noun.

- "These days no airline is safe to travel by."
- "I gave him a pen to write with."
- "I have no house to live in."

Rule VI: Split Infinitive

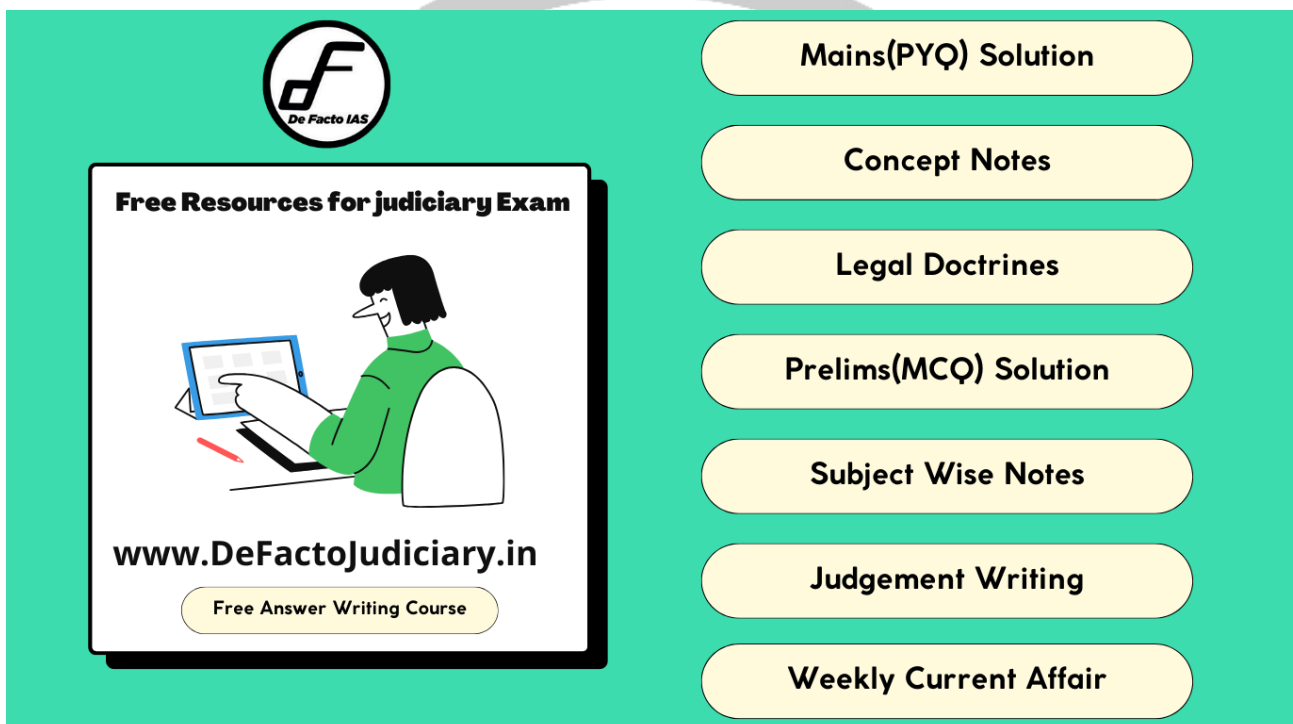
"To" should not be separated from its verb by inserting any adverb between the two. Split infinitive is grammatically incorrect.

- "You are requested to kindly stay for some time." (Incorrect)
- "You are requested to stay kindly for some time." (Correct)

Rule VII: Continuous Infinitive

Used with verbs and modal auxiliaries: appear, seem, believe, consider, think, report, happen, arrange, hope, pretend, say, may be, might be, should be, could be, must be, etc.

- "Malini appears to be running a temperature."
- "I happened to be sitting with my daughters."
- "She is reported to be working at Chandigarh."



Gerund (Verbal Noun)

A gerund is a verb form that functions as a noun and is formed by adding 'ing' to a verb.

- Preposition + Gerund: "I do not believe in talking rubbish."
- Direct Gerund: "I do not like riding."
- To + Gerund: "She is used to swimming."
- Subject: "Smoking is not good for health."

Rules of Gerund

Rule I: Preposition + Gerund

Used after certain verbs/phrases followed by appropriate prepositions.

- "I prohibited him from going there."
- "She is bent on harming her friend."

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Rule II: Direct Gerund

Certain verbs and phrases followed by direct gerund: avoid, mind, detest, can't help, can't bear, resist, enjoy, resent, stop, start, postpone, defer, worth, prefer, consider, practise, finish, risk, pardon, excuse, forgive, it is no use/good, propose, miss, imagine, regret, means, anticipate, love, like, hate, dislike.

- "We stopped writing."
- "He has given up playing hockey."

Rule III: To + Gerund

Use correctly with: be used to, accustomed to, averse to, with a view to, addicted to, devoted to, in addition to, look forward to, object to, owing to, given to, taken to, disposed to, prone to.

- "He is addicted to smoking heavily."
- "We go there with a view to studying science."

Rule IV: Possessive Case before Gerund

The noun or pronoun before a gerund should be in the possessive case.

- "I don't like his wasting time."
- "Geeta insisted on Rohan's going with her."

Participle

A participle is a form of a verb that ends with -ing, -ed, -en, -t and is used as a verb and an adjective.

Examples:

- "We found a candle burning." (Verb, Present Participle)
- "A burning candle was extinguished." (Adjective, Present Participle)
- "A burnt paper was discovered." (Adjective, Past Participle)
- "She returned disappointed." (Past Participle)
- "Having taken food, she left for office." (Perfect Participle)