

Verbs: Finite and Non-finite



Nicky and Ricky know that a sentence must have a verb.
Yet, one of Nicky's sentences and three of Ricky's sentences are wrong.

Read the conversation and cross the incorrect sentences. Discuss the reason for the mistakes.



My father is watching television.



My father cleaning his car. ✗



I will be coming to your house.



Everybody to come to my house. ✗



When will you all be free?



We always relaxing. ✗



All of us to visit now. ✗



All of us are going out now.

Nicky, Ricky, and you need to know the following:

A sentence must have at least one **finite verb**. A finite verb makes a sentence **complete**.

A verb ending in **-ing** is a **non-finite** verb. It needs a helping verb to become finite.

A verb with **to** before it is also a **non-finite** verb. It **does not** show tense.

Non-finite verbs **do not** make a sentence complete. They **do not** agree with the subject.

Identify the underlined verbs as **finite (F)** or **non-finite (NF)**. One has been done for you.

Sheila immediately ^F went ^{NF} to see her grandmother after ^{NF} arriving from Malaysia.

She ^F wants ^{NF} to go ^{NF} camping in the jungles of Sundarbans in West Bengal.

She ^F will be flying to Kolkata after she ^F returns from Alibaug.

She ^F is planning ^{NF} to shoot a video on the life of tribals ^{NF} living in those jungles.

She also ^F may go to Shantiniketan ^{NF} to play Holi.



Say it aloud

There are two kinds of verbs: **finite verbs** and **non-finite verbs**.

A **finite verb** functions as the **main verb** in a sentence. It shows **tense** and **agreement** with the subject.

A simple sentence has one **finite verb**. Examples: I study. I studied. I will study. I will be studying.

A **non-finite verb** **does not** show tense, e.g. She asked us to study. [Finite verb: **asked** (shows past tense); Non-finite verb: **to study** (shows no tense)].

A **non-finite verb** cannot stand alone as the **main verb** in a sentence, e.g. We studying. (main verb: nil).

We add a **helping verb** to a **non-finite verb** to make it **finite**, e.g. We are studying.