Unit 3
Gerund, Participle, Infinitive

Objectives
After the completion of this unit, you would be able to–
• explain the uses and functions of non-finite verbs.
• use non-finite verbs for communication.

Overview:
Lesson 1: Gerund
Lesson 2: Participle
Lesson 3: Infinitive

Answer Key
Lesson 1 : Gerund

Definition
Gerund is a non-finite verb. It looks like a verb but acts like a noun. When “verb+ing” works as a “noun and verb”, it is called Gerund.

Functions:
1. Subject of the verb:
   - *Swimming* is a good exercise.
   - *Giving* is better than receiving.
   - *Seeing* is believing.
   - *Rising* early is a good habit.
The bold subjects in the above sentences are gerund.

2. Object of a transitive verb:
   - Stop *writing*.
   - I like *reading* poetry.
   - Working is *praying*.
   - My hobby is *reading*. 
I could not help *laughing*
Don’t give up *trying*.
The bold objects (predicates) in the above sentences are gerunds.

3. **Object of a preposition:**
   - I am fond of *catching* fish.
   - I am tired of *writing*.
   - They are punished for *telling* a lie.

In the above sentences, after preposition ‘of’ and ‘for’, gerund is used.

4. **By + Gerund:**
   - By *eating* a balanced diet, you can live well.
   - By *drinking* milk, you can get vitamins.
   - By *being* curious, he can learn many things.

5. **Without + Gerund:**
   - Without *working* hard, you cannot success.

6. **As Verbal Noun (The + Gerund + of):**
   - The *reading* of history is interesting.
   - The *making* of dolls/the taking of exercise...

7. **Gerund after particular Finite Verbs:**
   - Mind, drop, practice, finish, delay, forbid, endure, excuse, consider, stop, fancy, suggest, present, prefer, deny, enjoy, miss, forgive, avoid, pardon.

*After these finite (principal) verbs --- if another verb (action word) sits, it takes the structure of gerund (verb+ing).*

**Example:**
- a. We enjoyed *playing* football.
- b. We stopped *working*.
- c. I suggest *doing* it.
- d. She forbade *doing* this.
- e. I have finished *reading*.
Exercise

Fill in the gaps with gerund:

1. He advised ______ (do) it.
2. I don’t mind ______ (chat) with her.
3. I can’t help ______ (laugh).
4. I am desirous of _____ (go) abroad.
5. Without _____ (run) faster, you can’t catch the train.

Answer Key:

1. doing
2. chatting
3. laughing
4. going
5. running
Lesson 2 : Participle

Definition:
Participle is a non-finite verb. It is used as an adjective. There are three types of participle:

a. Present Participle: When ‘verb+ing’ works as an ‘adjective and verb’, it is called Present Participle.
   Example: Standing at the door, he knocks.

b. Past Participle: When ‘v3’ works as ‘non-finite verb’, it is called past participle.
   Example: The burnt house is not ours.

c. Perfect Participle: When ‘having’ is used as ‘adjective and verb’ is called perfect participle.
   Example: Having done the work, I slept.

Functions:
1. It takes an object like a verb:
   Hearing a noise, he woke up.
   I saw a boy mending his shoes.

   The participle took objects (‘a noise’, ‘his shoes’) like a verb.

2. It is modified by an adverb:
   Loudly knocking at the gate, he went off.
   The book is very interesting.

   ‘Loudly’ and ‘very’ are adverbs modifying the participle.

3. It modifies a noun/pronoun:
   A lying person should be punished.
   A sleeping fox cannot catch a hen.
   A rolling stone gathers no moss.
   The glass is broken.
   This story is exciting.
   The girl is good-looking.

   Here, the participles are modifying the nouns (subjects) like adjectives.

4. It can be compared like an adjective:
   She is more charming than her sister.
   This is the most amusing story I have ever heard.

   Here the participles are compared like adjectives.

5. Absolute Nominative (it means --- not having any relation with Finite Verb):
   The sky being clear, the plane took off.
   I know nothing regarding the matter.
6. **Noun phrase + Present Participle = Adjective:**

I met a girl *carrying* a basket of flowers.
I found her *crying*.
I saw him *going* up the hill.

Here the italic words are used as adjectives.

![Participle Diagram]

**Exercise**

Fill in the gaps with participle (present/past/perfect participle):

a. I know the boys _____ (make) a noise there.

b. She kept me _____ (wait).

c. I saw ship _____ (come) towards us.

d. The car, _____ (break) since months, will be repaired soon.

e. The sun _____ (verb to have) set, we came back.

**Answer Key:**

a. Making
b. waiting
c. coming
d. broken
e. having
Lesson 3: Infinitive

Structure of Infinitive: to + base form of verb (v1)

After the following verbs infinitives take place:
Decide, desire, expect, promise, wish, want, offer, hope, refuse, and swear.

Example:
1. She promised to speak the truth.
2. I desire to go abroad.
3. We decided to go there.
4. She refused to help me.

After the following words ‘to’ remains invisible (hidden):
had better, had sooner, than, but, except

Example:
1. You have nothing to do but weep.
2. He is better able to sing than recite.

After the following verbs, ‘bare infinitive’ (zero/invisible infinitive) takes place:
Make, know, feel, hear, dare, bid, need, behold, watch, notice, see.

Example:
1. Let him stay.
2. I watched them play.
3. Did you hear me call you?
Exercise

Fill in the gaps with infinitives:
1. Kamal agreed ____ (come).
2. I hope ____ (see) you soon.
3. We plan ____ (finish) this shortly.
4. He offered ____ (sell) the house.
5. I want ____ (drink).

Answer Key:
1. to come
2. to see
3. to finish
4. to sell
5. to drink