

CHAPTER-VII

The Verb



As already stated, a verb is a word which tells us something about the subject. There can be no sentence without a verb— a verb is the nerve of a sentence.

KINDS OF VERBS

There are three kinds of verbs, as :

(a) Transitive Verb (b) Intransitive Verb (c) Auxiliary Verb

(a) Transitive Verb :

Study the following sentences :

- (i) Subhash helped the poor.
- (ii) The boys ran a race.
- (iii) They missed the train.

In these sentences 'helped', 'ran' and 'missed' are transitive verbs because they have object after them to complete the sense in each case. Thus a transitive verb takes an object after it to complete its sense :

(b) Intransitive Verb :

Examine the following sentences :

- (i) The birds fly.
- (ii) The teacher smiled.
- (iii) The children laughed.
- (iv) He has failed.
- (v) The cattle graze.

In these sentences, 'fly', 'smiled', 'laughed', 'failed' and 'graze' are intransitive verbs. They have no object after them. They complete sense in themselves. Thus intransitive verbs do not need any object after them.

(c) Auxiliary Verbs Or Helping Verbs :

Look at the following sentences :

- (i) I shall go to school.
- (ii) The girls are dancing.
- (iii) I have finished my work.
- (iv) You may come now.

In these sentences, 'shall', 'are', 'have', 'may' are helping the principal verbs, 'go', 'dancing', 'finishing' and 'come'. They are termed as Auxiliary Verbs.

Auxiliary Verbs may be listed as under :

be, is, am, are, was, were, shall, will, should, would, has, have, had, can, could, may, might, must, do, does, did, ought to, need, used to.

Note : Some of the auxiliary verbs can be used as Principal Verbs as :

1. God is omnipresent.
2. I have a pen.
3. We do our work honestly.

In the above sentences, 'is', 'have' and 'do' are used as Principal Verbs.

CONJUGATION OF VERBS

There are three forms of verbs namely, present, past and past participle. They form the basis of tense changes and it is imperative that the students should gain a thorough mastery over them. To conjugate a verb means to give its three forms namely : Present, Past and Past Participle.

Three forms of Verbs

<i>Present</i>	<i>Past</i>	<i>Past Participle</i>
Act	acted	acted
Arise	arose	arisen
Awake	awoke (awaked)	awoken (awaked)
Become	became	become
Begin	began	begun
Bid	bade (bid)	bidden (bid)
Bite	bit	bitten
Bend	bent	bent
Blow	blew	blown
Bind	bound	bound
Break	broke	broken
Bleed	bled	bled
Breed	bred	bred
Bless	blessed	blessed
Bring	brought	brought
Build	built	built
Burn	burnt	burnt
Buy	bought	bought
Bury	buried	buried
Come	came	come
Choose	chose	chosen
Catch	caught	caught
Clothe	clothed	clothed
Creep	crept	crept
Complain	complained	complained
Copy	copied	copied
Cry	cried	cried
Cling	clung	clung
Do	did	done
Dig	dug	dug
Drink	drank	drunk
Dare	dared	dared
Deal	dealt	dealt
Dream	dreamt	dreamt
Divide	divided	divided
Dwell	dwelt	dwelt
Drive	drove	driven
Eat	ate	eaten

Present**Past****Past Participle**

Find	found	found
Fight	fought	fought
Fall	fell	fallen
Fell	felled	felled
Fling	flung	flung
Fly	flew	flown
Forget	forgot	forgotten
Freeze	froze	frozen
Forbid	forbade	forbidden
Feed	fed	fed
Flee	fled	fled
Fight	fought	fought
Flow	flowed	flowed
Feel	felt	felt
Get	got	got
Give	gave	given
Grow	grew	grown
Grind	ground	ground
Hang	hung	hung
	hanged	hanged
Hold	held	held
Hide	hid	hidden
Heal	healed	healed
Have	had	had
Hear	heard	heard
Injure	injured	injured
Jump	jumped	jumped
Join	joined	joined
Judge	judged	judged
Know	knew	known
Kill	killed	killed
Keep	kept	kept
Kneel	knelt	knelt
Lie	lay	lain
	lied	lied
Lay	laid	laid
Lead	led	led
Leap	leapt	leapt
Learn	learnt	learnt
Learn	learned	learned
Lend	lent	lent
Light	lighted	lighted
Load	loaded	loaded
Lose	lost	lost
Make	made	made
Mean	meant	meant
Mend	mended	mended

Present	Past	Past Participle
Meet	met	met
Melt	melted	melted
Multiply	multiplied	multiplied
Rise	rose	risen
Ring	rang	rung
Ride	rode	ridden
Rot	rotted	rotted/rotten
See	saw	seen
Sit	sat	sat
Shine	shone	shone
Shake	shook	shaken
Shoot	shot	shot
Sing	sang	sung
Sink	sank	sunk
Spin	span	span
Spring	sprang	sprung
Speed	sped	sped
Shrink	shrank	shrunk
Slide	slid	slid
Stick	stuck	stuck
Sting	stung	stung
Strike	struck	struck
Speak	spoke	spoken
Slay	slew	slain
Swim	swam	swum
Stand	stood	stood
Steal	stole	stolen
Strive	strove	striven
Swear	swore	sworn
Swing	swung	swung
Say	said	said
Smell	smelt	smelt
Seek	sought	sought
Sell	sold	sold
Send	sent	sent
Sew	sewed	sewed
Show	showed	showed
Shave	shaved	shaved
Sow	sowed	sowed
		sown
Spend	spent	spent
Spoil	spoiled	spoiled
Stay	stayed	stayed
Sleep	slept	slept
Throw	threw	thrown
Tear	tore	torn

Present

Take
Tell
Teach
Think
Try
Win
Wear
Wind
Weave
Wring
Write
Wed
Weep
Work
Wonder

Past

took
told
taught
thought
tried
won
wore
wound
wove
wrung
wrote
wedded
wept
worked
wondered

Past Participle

taken
told
taught
thought
tried
won
worn
wound
woven
wrung
written
wedded
wept
worked
wondered

Verbs, having three forms alike**Present**

Beat

Bet
Bid
Burst
Cast
Cost
Cut
Hit
Hurt
Knit
Let
Put
Quit
Read
Rid
Set
Shed
Shut
Split
Spread
Spit
Thrust

Past

beat

bet
bid
burst
cast
cost
cut
hit
hurt
knit
let
put
quit
read
rid
set
shed
shut
split
spread
spat
thrust

Past Participle

beat
beaten
bet
bid
burst
cast
cost
cut
hit
hurt
knit
let
put
quit
read
rid
set
shed
shut
split
spread
spat
thrust

TENSES

When a verb expresses an action, it denotes whether the action takes place now *i.e.*, in the present or it took place sometime ago *i.e.*, in the past or whether it will take place sometime from now *i.e.*, in the future. This time of action is indicated by the verb, by certain changes in its form. These changes are called "Tenses". Thus 'Tense' is the time of the action that a verb expresses.

Study the verbs in the following sentences :

1. Vimal plays football.
2. Hari killed a snake.
3. I shall go to Chandigarh.

In the first sentence, the action is in the present, in the second sentence, the action is in the past and in the third sentence, the action is in the future. So these are three broad forms of tenses of the verb :

(i) Present Tense (ii) Past Tense (iii) Future Tense

Each of above mentioned three forms has further sub-divisions to show continuity or completeness of the action. These sub-divisions are :

(i) Indefinite Tense : This tense shows that the action is unfinished in the present, past and future.

(ii) Continuous or Imperfect Tense : This tense shows that the action is still continuing in the present, past and future. In this particular form of the tense there is a helping verb which is followed by the present participle of the verb.

(iii) Perfect Tense : This tense shows that an action has been completed in all the three main tenses.

(iv) Perfect Continuous Tense : This tense shows that the action which began some time before is still continuing.

Thus there are in all twelve forms of tenses which may be detailed as under :

TENSE CHART

<i>Tense</i>	<i>Indefinite</i>	<i>Continuous</i>	<i>Perfect</i>	<i>Perfect Continuous</i>
Present	I play He plays You play	I am playing He is playing you are playing	I have played He has played You have played	I have been playing He has been playing You have been playing
Past	I played He played You played	I was playing He was playing You were playing	I had played He had played You had played	I had been playing He had been playing You had been playing
Future	I shall play He will play You will play	I shall be playing He will be playing You will be playing	I shall have played He will have played You will have played	I shall have been playing He will have been playing You will have been playing

AGREEMENT OF THE VERB WITH THE SUBJECT

(i) A verb agrees with its subject in number. If the subject is singular, the verb takes the singular form. If the subject is plural, the verb takes the plural form.

Example : (a) The boy is intelligent.

(b) The boys are intelligent.

In the first sentence the subject is singular while in the second sentence, it is plural and hence subsequent change in the verbs also.

(ii) It may be noted that a verb agrees with its subject in person also. The person of the verb is the same as the person of the subject.

Example : I write a letter.

He writes a letter.

It may be noted in the above two sentences that 'I' and 'He' are singular in number but 'I' is a first person pronoun and 'He' is a third person pronoun and therefore the change in the verb.

(iii) A verb agrees in number and person with the subject and not with a noun nearest to it.

Example : The quality of these mangoes is good (not, are good).

(iv) When two or more singular subjects are joined by 'and', they take a plural verb.

Example : (a) Ram and Prasad are class-fellows.

(b) The horse and the cow are domestic animals.

(v) When two nouns refer to the same person, of a thing, the verb is in a singular number.

(a) The principal and my teacher is coming.

(b) The headclerk and cashier is busy.

Please note that the article 'the' is not written with the second noun.

(vi) When two subjects joined by 'and' express a single idea, the verb is in the singular form, as :

(a) Food and shelter is our immediate demand.

(b) Slow and steady wins the race.

(vii) When two subjects are joined by "as well as" and 'with' the verb agrees in number and person with the first subject, as :

(a) The principal as well as the members of staff has arrived.

(b) The principal with the members of the staff has arrived.

(viii) If two subjects are joined by 'not only', but also', the verb agrees in number and person with the second subject.

Example : (a) Not only the teachers but also the headmaster was praised.

(b) Not only the headmaster but also the teachers were praised.

(ix) Please note that structures such as, each, every, either, neither and many a, always take a singular verb :

Example : (a) Every student was happy.

(b) Each of them was given a prize.

(c) Neither of the two boys is intelligent.

(d) Either of these two persons is guilty.

(e) Many a sailor was drowned.

(x) When two nouns are joined by, either – or, neither – nor, the plural subject must be placed near the verb and the verb must be plural :

Example : (a) Neither the boy nor his friends, were welcomed.

(b) Either Vimla or her friends are in the wrong.

- (xi) When two subjects of different persons are joined by neither – nor, either – or, the verb agrees in person with the subject near to it :

Example : (a) Neither I nor he is to blame.

(b) Either Mohan or you are at fault.

- (xii) A collective noun in the singular form may take singular verb or a plural verb as the speakers may intend, as :

(a) The crowd has assembled in the ground.

(b) The crowd were tear gassed.

- (xiii) Note the following sentences which deserve special mention :

1. Fifty miles is not a long distance in these days.

2. Six dozen cost a lot.

3. Two scores do not cost much.

4. Mathematics is my terror.

5. Politics is a dirty game.

6. This news is too good to be true.

7. Fifty rupees is not a big sum.

8. "Glimpses of a word History" is a famous book.

EXERCISE-X

- (a) Correct the following sentences :

1. The last innings are over.

2. Measles are a dangerous disease.

3. His hairs are white.

4. Sohan as well as his friends are at fault.

5. Mathematics are my interesting subjects.

6. The teacher with his students have arrived.

7. A white and black horse are grazing.

8. He has left yesterday.

- (b) Use the following structures in the sentences of your own :

Either – or, Neither – nor, as well as, every, each, either, neither, many a not only but also.

- (c) Fill in the blanks with the correct tense of the verb in brackets :

1. He since morning. (read)

2. I for two hours. (play)

3. She her matriculation examination. (pass)

4. The patient before the doctor (die, arrive)

5. My friend yesterday. (leave)

6. He since Monday last. (ill)

7. If you hard, you (work, pass)

8. Where he at Chandigarh. (stay)

9. The teacher us a test. (give)

10. I on going. (insist)

SOME SPECIAL VERB AND THEIR USAGE

1. **Shall and will** : (i) When 'shall' is used with the first person and 'will' with the second and third person, they express simple future tense, as :

(a) I shall go to Delhi tomorrow.

(b) They will come back today.

(c) You will stand first this time.

2. When 'will' is used with the first person and 'shall' with the second and third persons, they express promise, threat or determination as :
 - (a) I will work hard to win a scholarship. (determination)
 - (b) I will teach him his place. (Threat)
 - (c) He shall know the consequences of this mischief. (Threat)
 - (d) You shall have a tea-party tomorrow. (a promise)
3. It may be noted that in Interrogative Sentences, 'shall' with the first and the second person and 'will' with the third person express simple future tense, as :
 - (a) Will you help me in this matter ?
 - (b) Shall I ever forget those happy days ?

May, Can : 'May' is used to express permission, wish, purpose or possibility, as :

- (a) May I go out, please ? (Permission)
- (b) May you prosper in life ! (wish)
- (c) We work hard so that we may pass. (purpose)
- (d) It may rain to-day. (Possibility)

'Can' expresses power or permission, as :

- (a) I can walk from morning till evening. (power)
- (b) You can take home my book. (permission)

Might, Could : These are the past tense of 'may' and 'can'.

- Might :** (a) He might win the race. (possibility)
 (b) We work hard so that we might win scholarships. (purpose)

- Could :** (c) He tried his best but could not pass.
 (d) Could you lend me your book ? (Request)

Must : It denotes compulsion, as :
 The students must work to pass.

- Need :** It expresses necessity, as :
 (a) He need not to go home.
 (b) Need I see you in this connection ?

This special use of 'need' is in interrogative and negative sentences.

Ought to : It expresses moral obligation as :

- (a) We ought to respect our teachers.
- (b) They ought to help us.
- (c) You ought to have written a letter to me earlier.

"Dare" : The verb 'dare' is used in the sense of venture or courage :

- (a) He dare not oppose me.
- (b) She dare not wander about.
- (c) I dare not speak against you.
- (d) How dare you disobey my orders.

Should and Would : 'Should' and 'would' are the past forms of 'shall' and 'will'.

1. 'Should' also expresses meaning of its own namely duty, obligation or propriety.
 - (a) Children should obey their parents.
 - (b) You should help the poor.
 - (c) We should have reached in time.

2. "Should" is also used to express supposition, as :
 - (a) Should you meet my friend, give him my message.
 - (b) If I should meet him, I shall give him a warning.
3. After the conjunction 'lest' irrespective of the tense of the verb :
 - (a) He ran fast lest he should miss the bus.
 - (b) I work hard lest I should fail.

Would : It expresses determination, obstinacy or persistence, as :

- (a) I would have my own way in this matter.
- (b) He would not work however hard I tried.
- (c) Habitual action :
Ram would daily take bath.
- (d) Willingness :
The teacher said he would help me.
- (e) Conclusion of a condition :
 - (i) If I were you I would not let him go.
 - (ii) If you had worked hard, you would have passed.
- (f) Polite form of question :
Would you kindly give me your book ?

Causative Verbs

There are three causative verbs : (a) have (b) get (c) 'help'.

They show that the subject is not the doer but someone else is the doer, as :

Have : 1. I must have my clothes washed.

2. He had his urine tested.
3. He must have his hair cut.
4. I must have my radio repaired.
5. You must have your house whitewashed.
6. I had put the rascal in jail.

Get : 1. Get yourself medically examined.

2. Get your clothes properly stitched.
3. Get me an interesting book.
4. Get someone prepare tea for me.

Help : 1. Help the guests come in.

2. Please help me enter the hall.
3. Will he help you find a house ?

Gerund : A gerund is a verbal form which often takes the place of a noun, as :

Singing is an art.

Here the word 'Singing' is a form of the verb (sing). It also does the work of a noun as it is the subject of the verb 'is'. Hence a gerund may be called a 'Verbal Noun'.

The most popular form of the gerund ends in (ing). The form of the Gerund is the same as that of a "Present Participle". They differ in their function.

A Gerund is a noun while participle functions as an Adjective, as :

- (a) Swimming is a good exercise.
- (b) He took part in a swimming exercise.

(c) Barking of dogs disturbed me.

(d) Barking dogs seldom bite.

In the same way an **Infinitive** also functions as a noun. Therefore, in many sentences either an infinitive or a gerund may be used without much difference in sense :

1. To sing is a good hobby.

2. Singing is his hobby.

3. The teacher taught him to count.

4. The teacher taught him counting.

Use of Gerund :

(a) Subject of the verb, as :

Reading made him great.

Playing became his profession.

(b) Object of the verb, as :

He loves flying.

She likes swimming.

(c) Complement of a verb, as :

Seeing is believing.

(d) Object of a preposition, as :

He aimed at winning the game.

I am fond of playing hockey.