

Міністерство освіти і науки України  
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Курсова робота

**Теоретичні та практичні аспекти безособових форм дієслова в  
англійській мові**

Студента групи Мла 07-19  
факультету германської філології і перекладу  
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(переклад включно) перша – англійська  
Корольова Дмитра Олеговича

Науковий керівник:  
кандидат філологічних наук, професор  
Волкова Лідія Михайлівна

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Term paper

**Theoretical and practical aspects of non-finite forms of the  
verb in English**

**DMYTRO KOROLOV**

Group 07-19

Germanic Philology and Translation Department

Research Adviser

Prof. L.M.Volkova

PhD (Linguistics)

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## INTRODUCTION

The study of non-finite forms of the verb in English is crucial for anyone seeking to master the complexities of the language. Non-finite verbs, which include infinitives, participles, and gerunds, are essential for constructing complex sentences and expressing a wide range of ideas. However, they can also be a source of confusion and difficulty for English language learners.

The object of this course paper is to explore the theoretical and practical aspects of non-finite verbs in English. The subject of the paper includes the syntax, usage, and function of these verbs in various contexts. The purpose of this paper is to provide a comprehensive understanding of non-finite verbs, which will enable learners to use them more effectively in their own writing and communication.

The objectives of this course paper are to:

- Examine the theoretical foundations of non-finite verbs in English.
- Analyze the practical aspects of non-finite verbs, such as their usage in different types of sentences and their ability to convey complex ideas.

The research methodology used in this paper will be a combination of theoretical and practical approaches. Theoretical analysis will involve an in-depth examination of the existing literature on non-finite verbs, while practical analysis will involve analyzing real-life examples of non-finite verbs in use.

The practical significance of this course paper lies in its ability to provide learners with a deeper understanding of the complexities of English grammar. By mastering the use of non-finite verbs, learners will be able to express themselves more effectively and convey more complex ideas. Furthermore, this paper will be useful for teachers of English as a second language, who can use the information presented here to help their students improve their writing and communication skills.

## CHAPTER ONE. THE THEORETICAL ASPECTS OF VERBALS

### 1.1. The definition and the characteristic traits of verbals

Verbals are non-finite forms of the verb which name an action but do not show person, number and mood (Бондарук, Деркач, Слободяник 2019, p. 5).

Like the finite forms of the verb the verbals have tense and voice distinctions, but their tense distinctions differ greatly from those of the finite verb.

There are three types of verbals in English: the Infinitive, the Gerund and the Participle (Меркулова, Кузьміна, Набокова, Липецька 2010, с. 4).

In some modern grammar textbooks no distinction is made between Participle I and the gerund. Both forms are referred to as *ing* forms' or *'-ing* participle. (Murphy 2004, p 106, 136).

However, as shown below, there exist clear-cut differences between these two verbals, which give grounds for their differentiation. The distinction between these two forms can be important for understanding their different uses and functions in the sentence.

The characteristic traits of the verbals are as follows:

1. They possess both nominal and verbal features. The participle expresses both verb and adjective characteristics, while the gerund and the infinitive express both verb and noun characteristics.

2. The tense distinctions of verbals are relative, unlike those of the finite verb, which are absolute. Verbal forms do not indicate whether the action they denote is in the present, past or future, but only whether it is simultaneous or prior to the action expressed by the finite verb. The passive auxiliary does not specify the verb in the same sense as markers of tense, aspect, and modality. The passive is rather connected with the way the participants in a situation are presented (Biber, Johansson, Leech, Finega 2021, p.104).

3. All verbals can form predicative constructions, consisting of a nominal element (noun or pronoun) and a verbal element (participle, gerund, or infinitive) that stands in a predicate relation to the nominal element. These constructions usually function as one part of a sentence.

*They sat down to breakfast, Tyler still smiling cheerfully.*

*Tyler still smiling cheerfully* is a predicative construction with a participle: the participle *smiling* stands in predicate relation to the noun *Tyler*, which denotes the doer of the action expressed by the participle.

In the sentence a verbal may occur:

1. Singly, i. e. without accompanying words.

*He went away waving.*

2. In phrases with one or more accompanying words that form a unit within the sentence, but should not be confused with predicative constructions which include a noun or pronoun denoting the doer of the action expressed by the verbal.

*She enjoys reading books.*

3. In predicative constructions.

*If you will excuse my speaking frankly, I mean to observe you closely, and to decide for myself* (Collins 2016, p 10).

## **1.2 The theoretical aspects of the Infinitive**

The infinitive is a verb phrase consisting of *to* followed by the base form of the verb ( Strunk .& White 1918, p. 83).

The infinitive in Modern English has a dual nature, being both nominal and verbal. It originated from the verbal noun and gradually became verbalized while retaining some of its nominal characteristics. This is similar to the participle and gerund forms.

1. The nominal aspect of the infinitive is evident in its syntactic functions. The infinitive can be utilized:

(a) as the subject of a sentence. *Swimming in that lake is forbidden.*

(b) as a predicative. *His plan seemed to be quite feasible.*

(c) as an object. *It was from a weekly visit to the cinema that you learned (or tried to learn) how to walk ,to smoke, to kiss, to fight, to grieve. (Sontag 2015, p.1).*

2. The verbal features of the infinitive are as follows:

(a) the infinitive of transitive verbs can receive a direct object. *She decided to paint her room purple.*

(b) the infinitive can be modified by an adverb. *He needs to study more efficiently.*

(c) the infinitive has distinctions in tense and aspect; the infinitive of transitive verbs also has distinctions in voice.

The following forms are used for the infinitive in Modern English:

Tense/Aspect	Active Voice	Passive Voice
Indefinite	to take	to be taken
Continuous	to be taking	-
Perfect	to have taken	to have been taken
Perfect	to have been	-
Continuous	taking	-

There is an old rule which says that adverbs should not be put between to and the rest of the infinitive. So for example *He began slowly to get up of the floor* is supposed to be 'more correct' than *He began to slowly get up of the floor*. This rule was invented in the 19th century by grammarians who thought English should imitate Latin (in which an infinitive is one word), and has little value. However, some people still avoid split infinitives of this kind in formal writing (Swan & Walter, 2011, p/

100).

The tense, aspect and voice distinctions of the Infinitive: *In terms of tense, the infinitive form of verbs is not absolute but relative 1. The Indefinite Infinitive refers to an action that is happening at the same time as the action expressed by the finite verb, and it can be in the present, past or future. **To dance is my favorite hobby.***

2. The progressive (or continuous) aspect consists of a form of the auxiliary be followed by an -ing participle (Greenbaum 1996, p. 288)/. It indicates an action happening simultaneously with the finite verb, but in progress, expressing both the time relations and the manner of the action.

*He seemed to be walking aimlessly.*

3. The Perfect Infinitive refers to an action that occurred before the action expressed by the finite verb. It is used to express the speaker's satisfaction or regret about the past event.

*I am happy to have finished my work early.*

4. The Perfect Continuous Infinitive expresses an action that continued for a specific duration prior to the occurrence of the finite verb. It serves both as a tense and an aspect form.

*I was surprised to find that she seemed to have been waiting for me for hours.*

The voice distinctions of the infinitive:

Transitive verbs have specific forms for the Active and Passive Voice in the infinitive form. For instance, *to love and to be loved* express active and passive voices respectively.

*Which is better, to love or to be loved?*

### **1.3. The theoretical aspects of the Gerund**



A gerund is the -ing form of a verb used as a noun. A gerund is used in the same ways as a noun. (Azar 2002, p. 297)

The gerund has a dual nature, possessing both nominal and verbal properties due to its history and evolution. (Нерівода 2020, p. 60) The nominal characteristics of the gerund are as follows:

1. It can function as the subject, object or predicative in a sentence.

*Learning a new language can be challenging.* (Subject)

*I enjoy reading books before bed.* (Object)

*His favorite hobby is playing guitar.* (Predicative)

2. The gerund can be preceded by a preposition.

*She is good at singing.*

3. Like a noun, it can be modified by a noun in the possessive case or a possessive pronoun.

*My sister's singing always brings a smile to my face.*

The verbal characteristics of the gerund are similar to those of the participle:

1. Ability to take a direct object for transitive verbs

*I enjoy swimming laps in the pool.*

2. Being modified by an adverb

*He burst out crying bitterly.*

3. Having tense and voice distinctions.

	Active	Passive
Indefinite	writing	being wrtten
Perfect	having written	having been written

The Tense and voice distinctions:

The gerund can be used in different tenses, but these tense distinctions are relative rather than absolute, just like with participles.

The indefinite gerund, both active and passive, describes an action that occurs at the same time as the finite verb, and can refer to the present, past, or future depending on the tense of the finite verb.

I love singing while I cook.

The perfect gerund, on the other hand, describes an action that occurs before the action of the finite verb.

She denies having spoken with him

However, not all prior actions are expressed using the perfect gerund. In some cases, an indefinite gerund is used instead, such as after the verbs "to remember," "to excuse," "to forgive," "to thank," and the prepositions "on (upon)," "after," and "without."

I don't remember hearing this story.

Additionally, the gerund has forms for both the active and passive voice, with the gerund of transitive verbs having special forms for each.

It should be noted that after verbs like "to want," "to need," "to deserve," "to require," and the adjective "worth," the gerund is used in the active form even though it has a passive meaning.

He project is worth completing

Predicative constructions with the gerund:

Predicative constructions with the gerund are sentences in which the gerund is in

predicate relation to the nominal element expressed by a noun or pronoun.

I appreciate your taking the time to help me with this project.

In this sentence, "taking" is a gerund that is in predicate relation to the pronoun "your," which refers to the person who took the action of helping with the project.

#### 1.4. The theoretical aspects of the Participle

The participle is a non-finite verb form that can function as both an adjective or adverbial. The participle is sometimes called the past participle' or, with transitive verbs, the 'passive participle'. (Quirk, Greenbaum, Leech, Svartweek 1985, p.8).

Participle I is formed by adding the suffix '-ing' to the verb stem: *dancing*, *running*.

Participle II is formed by adding the suffix 'ed' to the verb stem or using the third form of a verb if it is irregular: *talked*, *eaten*

Participles have both a verbal and an adjectival or adverbial character. Their adjectival or adverbial character is evident in their syntactic functions as either an attribute or an adverbial modifier.

Some participles have lost their verbality entirely and are now adjectives, such as 'interesting', 'charming', 'alarming', 'complicated', 'distinguished', 'furnished', and others.

Participle I of a transitive verb can take a direct object, and both Participle I and Participle II

Participle I has tense and voice distinctions

	Active	Passive
Indefinite	writing	being written
Perfect	having written	having been written

The tense and voice distinctions of the participle:

The distinctions of tense in participles, like those of all verbals, are not absolute but relative.

The Present Active and Passive form of Participle I usually describe an action happening at the same time as the action expressed by the finite verb, and can refer to the present, past, or future depending on the tense of the finite verb.

The Perfect Active and Passive form of Participle I describes an action that happened before the action expressed by the finite verb.

Participle II does not have tense distinctions and can express both an action happening at the same time as the finite verb and an action that happened before it, but the latter is more common.

Transitive verbs have specific forms for the active and passive voices in Participle I. For example, in the sentence below the active form of Participle I is used.

*When writing letters, he does not like to be disturbed.*

In the next sentence the passive form of Participle I is used.

*Being written in pencil, the letter was difficult to make out.*

The Perfect Active and Passive forms of Participle I can also be used, as in

*Having written some letters, he went to post them*

*Having been written long ago, the manuscript was illegible.*

Participle II of transitive verbs has a passive meaning, as in "a broken glass" or "a caged bird." However, Participle II of intransitive verbs has no passive meaning and is only used in compound tense-forms. It has no independent function in the sentence, except when it is used with a verb that denotes passing into a new state, as in "a withered flower" or "a faded leaf."

## **CHAPTER TWO. The practical aspects of Verbals**

### **1.2. General practical aspects of Verbals**

Non-finite clauses appear in a very wide range of functions, but there are major differences between the four types. (Huddleston & Pullum 2005, p. 211) There are some practical aspects of non-finite verb forms in English:

Infinitives are commonly used to express purpose or intention. This use of infinitives is often referred to as the infinitive of purpose.

*I went to the store to buy some milk.*

The infinitive can also be used to express obligation or necessity. This use of infinitives is often referred to as the infinitive of obligation.

*I need to finish my homework before I can go out.*

Gerunds are often used to describe ongoing actions or activities.

*She enjoys reading books.*

Past participles are used to describe completed actions or events. Past participles are commonly used in the perfect aspect of verb tenses.

*She has eaten breakfast.*

Present participles are used to describe ongoing states or conditions. Present participles are often used in the progressive aspect of verb tenses.

*He is always running late.*

Understanding these practical aspects of non-finite verb forms in English can help you use them more effectively in your own communication.

### **2.2. The practical aspects of the Infinitive**

The use of the Infinitive:

One of the most common uses of infinitives is to express purpose (Leech, Svartvik

1975, p. 77)

*I went to the store to buy some milk.*

The Infinitive can be used to give commands or directions.

*To open the door, turn the handle.*

The Infinitive can be used as an adjective or adverb to modify a noun or verb. For example

*The book to read is on the shelf.*

Infinitives can also be used to form complex sentences.

*She was happy to hear that her friend was coming to visit.*

The Infinitive used as parenthesis is usually part of a collocation, as in: *to begin with, to be (quite) frank, to make matters worse, to put it mildly, to say the least, to tell the truth, needless to say, strange to say, to make a long story short, to crown it all, to be more precise, to say nothing of ..., etc.*

*To begin with, you have been lying to me all the time.*

In Modern English we find the following predicative constructions with the infinitive:

#### 1. The Objective-with-the-Infinitive Construction

*I saw him cross the street.*

#### 2. The Subjective Infinitive Construction

*They were seen to leave the house early.*

#### 3. The for-to-Infinitive Construction.

*Don't you think that's a weird thing for him to write?*

Overall, infinitives are an essential part of English grammar and can be used in a variety of ways to convey meaning. A thorough understanding of infinitives is important for anyone seeking to communicate effectively in English.

The functions of the infinitive in the sentence:

The infinitive can serve various syntactic roles, but it is rare to see a standalone infinitive. Instead, what we usually encounter is an infinitive phrase that consists of an infinitive along with one or more accompanying words. Infinitives function as complement or modifier/adjunct in a considerable number of constructions p.

1. The infinitive as a subject.

*To love another person is to see the face of God.*

2. The infinitive as a predicative.

*My goal is to learn a new language.*

3. The infinitive as part of a compound verbal predicate

*I did not see him and as the long train was about to pull out.*

(Hemingway 1964, 68)

4. The infinitive as an object.

*She went down to look about her and to wonder what was going to happen next.  
(Carroll 2020, 52).*

5. The infinitive as part of a complex object.

*I want you to help me with my project.*

6. The infinitive as an attribute.

*Her dream was to become a doctor*

7. The infinitive as an adverbial modifier.

*She works hard in order to achieve her goals.*

### 2.3. The practical aspects of the Gerund

The use of the gerund:

One practical use of gerunds is to form gerund phrases, which are phrases containing a gerund and other accompanying words, such as objects, modifiers, or complements. Gerund phrases can function as the subject of a sentence, the object of a verb or preposition, or the complement of a verb or adjective. For example, in the sentence.

The gerund phrase "reading books" functions as the complement of the verb "is."

*My favorite hobby is reading books.*

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*We had good time playing volleyball.*

Gerund can be used as modifiers before nouns.

*A waiting room.*

In Modern English, the gerund and the Infinitive are both commonly used verb forms. However, there are specific instances where only the gerund is used. These include verbs and verbal phrases such as *to avoid*, *to burst out*, *to deny*, *to enjoy*, *to excuse*, *to fancy*, *to finish*, *to forgive*, *to give up*, *to go on*, *to keep (on)*, *to leave off (to mind)*, *to postpone*, *to put off*, *cannot help* and some others.

*She remembered putting something in her mistress's cocoa that turned out not to be sugar, but a lethal and little-known poison," said Dumbledore. ( (Rowling 2019, 492).*

With the following verbs and verbal propositions used with proposition: *to accuse of*, *to agree to*, *to approve of* *to complain of* *to depend on*, *to feel like*, *to insist on*, *to look like*, *to object to*, *to persist in*, *to prevent from*, *to rely on*, *to speak of*, *to succeed in*, *to suspect of*, *to thank for*, *think of*, *to give up the idea of*, *to look forward to*, *not to like the idea*, *to miss an (the) opportunity of* and some others.

*It looks like raining*

With the following predicative word-groups (with or without a preposition): *to be aware of*, *to be busy in*, *to be capable of*, *to be fond of*, *to be guilty of*, *to be indignant at*, *to be pleased (displeased) at*, *to be proud of*, *to be sure of*, *to be surprised (astonished) at*, *to be worth (while)*, and some others. I wasn't aware of his arrival.

In conclusion, the gerund is an essential aspect of English grammar that is widely used to form gerund phrases, after certain verbs and prepositions, and to



express continuous or ongoing actions. Understanding the proper use of gerunds is crucial for constructing grammatically correct and effective sentences in English.

The functions of the gerund in the sentence:

The gerund may be used in various syntactic functions. A single gerund occurs but seldom; in most cases we find a gerundial phrase or a gerundial construction.

1. The gerund as a subject.

*Dancing is a great way to express yourself.*

2. The gerund as a predicative.

*Her favorite activity is hiking.*

3. The gerund as part of a compound verbal predicate.

*She wants to start practicing yoga regularly.*

4. The gerund as an object.

*I don't like doing it that way* (Pausch 2008, p.172).

5. The gerund as an attribute.

In this function the gerund is always preceded by a preposition.

*There's no chance of their getting married for years*

#### 2.4. The practical aspects of the Participle

One practical use of participles is to form participial phrases, which are phrases containing a participle and other accompanying words, such as prepositions or objects. Participial phrases can function as adjectives or adverbs and are commonly used to modify nouns or pronouns in a sentence. For example, in the sentence "*The man, walking down the street, whistled a tune,*" the participial phrase "walking down the street" modifies the noun "man."

The self-positional present participle, in the proper syntactic arrangements, performs

the functions of the predicative (occasional use, and not with the pure link be), the attribute, the adverbial modifier of various types.

*The questions became more and more irritating.* (Present participle predicative position) (Bloch 1983, p. 111)

Participles can also be used to form various verb tenses, such as the present perfect and past perfect. In the present perfect tense, the past participle is used in conjunction with the helping verb "have" or "has," as in the sentence

*She has written three books.*

In the past perfect tense, the past participle is used with the helping verb "had," as in the sentence

*I had studied Spanish for two years before moving to Madrid.*

In English we find the following predicative constructions with the participle:

1. The Objective Participial Construction

*I heard him discussing something animatedly in the next room.*

2. The Subjective Participial Construction;

*The horse was seen descending the hill.* (Hardy 1874, p. 119).

3. The Nominative Absolute Participial Construction

*The door and window of the vacant room being open.*

4. The Prepositional Absolute Participial Construction.

*With her work finished, she decided to take a break.*

In conclusion, participles are an important aspect of English grammar that play a crucial role in constructing grammatically correct sentences. Understanding the proper use of participles is essential for creating clear and effective writing.

Participles are an important aspect of English grammar that play a crucial role in constructing grammatically correct sentences. Understanding the proper use of participles is essential for creating clear and effective writing.

The functions of Participle in the sentence:

Participle I may have different syntactic functions

1. Participle I as an attribute.

*The man walking down the street is my neighbor.*

2. Participle I as an adverbial modifier.

*She read the book, crying the whole time.*

3. Participle I as a predicative.

*The situation seemed confusing*

4. Participle I as part of a complex object.

*The salesman insisting on talking about the financing options complicated things.*

5. Participle I as part of a compound verbal predicate.

*The dancers leapt onto the stage, twirling and spinning as they performed their routine.*

6. Participial phrase as parenthesis.

*My sister, having just graduated from college, took a trip to Europe.*

7. Participle I as Adjunct (Aarts 2011, p. 286).

*Egyptian archaeological sites being what they are.*

The functions of Participle II in the sentence.

1. Participle II as an *attribute*.

*I believe in broken, fractured, complicated narratives.* (Greenblatt 2004, P. 164).

2. Participle II as an adverbial modifier.

*The man had come into her room, attracted by the pianoplay*

3. Participle II as a predicative.

*She was impressed.*

4. Participle II as part of a complex object.

*I have found her changed.*

## CONCLUSIONS

The study of non-finite forms of the verb in English is a vital aspect of language learning. Through our exploration of the theoretical and practical aspects of non-finite verbs, we have gained a more comprehensive understanding of their structures, functions, and usage in everyday communication.

Theoretical analysis has allowed us to delve deeper into the grammatical structures of non-finite verbs. We have learned how these verb forms differ from finite verbs, in that they do not indicate tense or person, and how they can function as adjectives, adverbs, or nouns, depending on the context in which they are used. This understanding has enabled us to construct more complex sentences and convey abstract ideas more effectively.

Moreover, the practical aspects of non-finite verbs were analyzed, examining their usage and application in everyday communication. Non-finite verbs are often used to create verb phrases, adding variety and sophistication to writing and speech. By mastering the use of non-finite verbs, learners can produce more complex and nuanced sentences, which can improve their overall communication skills. This ability to communicate effectively can have a significant impact on personal and professional success.

In conclusion, the study of non-finite verbs in English is essential for mastering the complexities of the language. Through both theoretical and practical analysis, we have gained a deeper understanding of their structures, functions, and usage in everyday communication. By mastering these verb forms, learners can produce more complex and nuanced sentences, which can improve their overall communication skills and enable them to succeed in a variety of personal and professional contexts.

## RÉSUMÉ

Курсова робота на тему: Теоретичні та практичні аспекти безособових форм дієслова в англійській мові

Виконав – Корольов Дмитро, студент 4 курсу, факультету германської філології, групи Мла 07-19.

Курсова робота складається зі вступу, двох розділів, висновку, резюме та списку використаних джерел. Перший розділ охоплює теоретичні аспекти неособових форм дієслова. Другий розділ заглиблюється в практичні аспекти. Теоретичні аспекти включають визначення, утворення та ознаки, а також відмінності за часами та способами. Практичні аспекти охоплюють вживання та функції в реченні.

У даній курсовій роботі всього:

Сторінок – 25

Список використаних джерел: 28

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