

Филологические науки

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SOME SPECIFIC FEATURES OF THE VERBALS IN ENGLISH GRAMMAR ⁸

M. Y. Kahharova, G. H. Nazarova. The teachers from Bukhara state university (Бухара, Узбекистан),

Некоторые определенные особенности инфинитива в английской грамматике

Аннотация. В существующих практических пособиях по грамматике вопрос об употреблении неличных форм глагола, как правила, подменяется изучением их синтаксических функций в предложении. Однако их функции не укладываются в традиционную систему членов приложения, что вызывает самую разноречивую их трактовку. Неличные формы глагола представляет часто значительную трудность и отвлекает внимание изучающего английский язык от фактического употребления этих форм в языке. В английской грамматике отличаются между двумя формы глагола: личные и неличные формы глагола. Неличные формы глагола называются также «Verbals». Неличные формы глагола имеет 3 типа: 1. Инфинитив 2. Герундий 3. Причастие. Инфинитив (неопределённая форма глагола) представляет собой неличную форму, которая только называют действие, не указывая ни лица, ни числа. Инфинитив отвечает на вопросы что делать, что сделать? Формальным признаком инфинитива является частица «to». Инфинитив как вводное фраза употребляется только с частицей «to», когда он употребляется функции вводное слово.

Ключевые слова: инфинитив, обучение иностранному языку, методика, абсолютная конструкция, круглая скобка, неличная форма, омонимы, лексически зависимые.

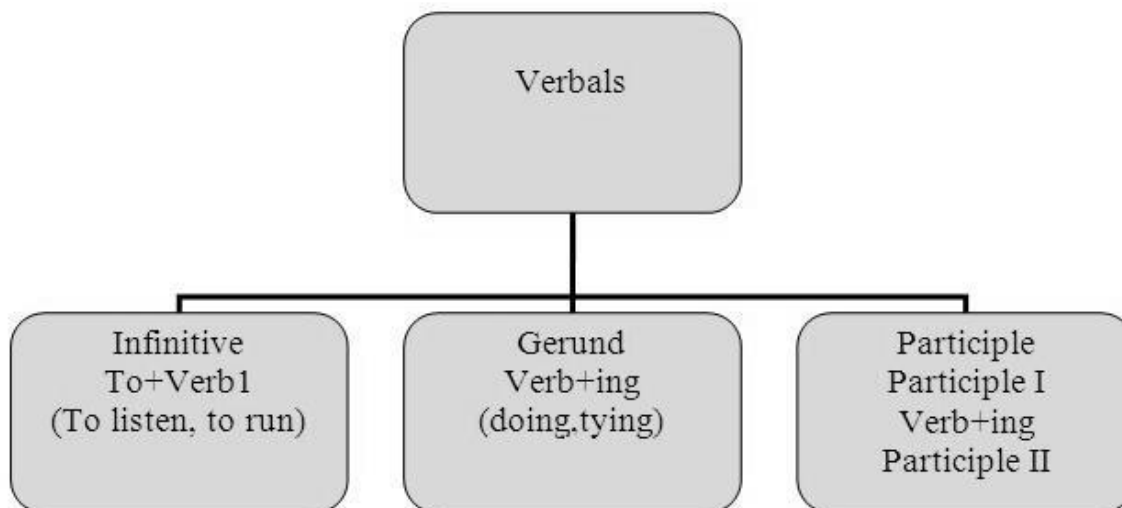
All English grammars distinguish between finite and non-finite forms of the verb. The non-finite forms, which are also called the verbal or the non-predicative forms of the verb, comprise, according to most grammars. There are 3 verbal in the manuals:

Traditionally English grammar distinguishes between the Gerund and Participle I. The distinction between them is based on their functions in the sentence, as there is no formal difference between them and they are imously recognized as homonyms. The gerund is said to have the properties of a noun whereas participle I is believed to have adjectival and –according to some scholars-adverbial features.

It is generally admitted, however, in most grammars that the distinction between the

⁸ Статью представил Мухиддин Мухамматович Бафаев (Бухара, Узбекистан), рецензент Якимец Светлана Викторовна - к.п.н., доцент (Орск, Россия).

gerund and participle I becomes obliterated in certain cases when they have a subject of their own.



E.g. It's been a great chance my meeting you like this.

Do you recall Reynard's doing that?

If that's all you wanted to see me about, there is no point in me staying.

He was sorry about his father having to go away and asked if this was really necessary.

An ing-form preceded by a possessive pronoun or a noun in the possessive case, as in the first two examples, is treated in grammars as a gerund, because these are modifiers that can be placed before a noun. (His arrival, the engineer's invention).

But personal pronoun in the objective case or a noun in the common case is generally not placed before a noun to denote the doer of its action. Therefore some scholars believe that we are dealing with participle I if an ing -form is preceded by a subject of this kind.

Grammarians suggest a kind of compromise, the evasive term "half - gerund". However, this interpretation of the construction at issue has been more than once subjected to criticism as the term lacks distinction. In fact it is grammatically vague and makes the problem still more intricate.

The Infinitive as parenthesis ⁹

The infinitive as parenthesis is always used with the particle "to". In this function the infinitive is generally a set phrase. It is inserted in a sentence which is grammatically complete without it and in writing it is marked off by a comma. In other words, the infinitive phrase does not perform the function of any part of the sentence.

⁹ E.M. Gordon "The English verbals" – Москва, 1990

E.g. To cap misfortune, the postman in his afternoon round brought him five returned manuscripts.

To be quite frank, the speech for me was mildly funny.

Gerund as Close Adjunct to a passive verb

Gerund as a close adjunct to a passive verb always follows its head-verb. It is lexically dependent and its use is restricted to a limited number of verbs. They are:

<i>To catch</i>	<i>to report</i>
<i>To find</i>	<i>to see</i>
<i>To hear</i>	<i>to set</i>
<i>To leave</i>	<i>to show</i>
<i>To notice</i>	<i>to watch</i>

E.g. When the door closed, Montecito and I were *left looking* at each other.

He drew a cartoon for punch in which W. Shakespeare was *shown biting* his fingers in front of the boards that advertised my plays.

Participle

Participle is a verb form used as an adjective without losing its character as a verb.¹⁰ A verb has 2 participles: 1. *The present participle* – for example, *drawing* expresses action in progress. 2. *The past participle*- for example, *drawn* expresses finished action.

When using a participle as an adjective many people make error of creating a dangling modifier.

In *walking up the hill, the church came into view*; the word walking dangles because the sentence does not make clear who is walking. The sentence can be clarified in either 2 ways:

-*Walking up the hill, we came within sight of a church.*

-*As we walked up the hill, a church came into view.*

We can see the following types of participles in this schedule:¹¹

	Active	Passive
Present	Verb+ing doing	Being+Verb3 being done
Past	-	Verb3 done
Perfect	Having+Verb3 having+ done	Having+been+Verb3 Having been done

Present participle active (Verb+ing) is used to denote the action which happens

¹⁰ World Book, Inc, a Scott Fetzer company, Chicago London Sydney Toronto, 1994.

¹¹ К.Н. Качалова, Израйлович Е.Е. Практическая грамматика Английского языка, Бишкек, 2000

with the finite verb simultaneously.

E.g. She *is looking* at the woman *sitting* at the window.

When one action happens before another action, we can use Perfect participle for the first action.

E.g. Having done all her shopping, she went out for a cup of coffee.

The Participle in Absolute Constructions

The participle may be used as part of an absolute construction. The most characteristic meaning of an absolute construction is to describe *the appearance, the behavior or inner state* of the person denoted by the subject of the sentence.

E.g. In the library, Diana, revived *her face less drawn*, went through the minuet of grumbles.

Scholars believe that “the gerund is more abstract, the infinitive is more concrete and lively”

B.A. Ilyish, in dealing with some of the difficulties offered by the analysis of the ing-forms, points out that both views are justifiable –we can either treat the gerund and participle I as 2 sets of homonyms or a single form which may have different functions in the sentence and express various shades of meaning.

E.g. He began *talking* about his life.

As the violence began to wear itself out, she had begun *to look* frightened, then terrified.

In Russian we also have 3 non-finite forms of the verb, but they do not fully coincide with those in the English language. (Причастие, деепричастие, инфинитив).

English is rich in compounds in which the second component is an ing-form such as a tired-looking young woman, an active-looking small boy of about three, an empty-looking station, nice-looking people, innocent-appearing methods, at breath-taking speed, an English-speaking driver in Paris, and a mind-reading dog.

Generally, all verbals do not have subjects that affect their forms; verbs that are affected by subjects are called finite verbs, because they show features of person, number, tense and mood. The tense distinctions of the verbals are not absolute, but relative; the form of a verbal does not show whether the action it denotes refers to the present past or future.

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5. E.S. Aznaurova, Kh. I.Abdurakhmanova “Translation” Theory and Practice, “Ukituvchi”-1989.

Abstract. The article deals with the distinction between Gerund and Participle. It is based on their functions in the sentence, as there is no formal difference between them and they are unanimously recognized as homonyms. The gerund is said to have the properties of a noun whereas participle I is believed to have adjectival and –according to some scholars adverbial features. It is generally admitted, however, in most grammars that the distinction between the gerund and participle I becomes obliterated in certain cases when they have a subject of their own.

Keywords: absolute construction, parenthesis, non-finite form, homonyms, lexically dependent.

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Сведения об авторах:

Kahharova M. Y. [Мохигуль **Каххарова**], Nazarova G. H. [Гульбахор **Назарова**] - преподаватели Бухарского государственного университета (Бухара, Узбекистан).

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