

Namaste English

Mastery Course

on

Verbs

Mastery Course on Verb

10 Live Classes



Class PDFs



QUIZZES



Daily Practice



By Santosh Sir

From Basic to Advance level

Verbs Day 7

The banner features a purple background with a red diagonal corner on the top left containing the text 'DAY 7'. The main title 'Mastery Course on Verb' is written in white, with 'Verb' enclosed in a yellow-bordered box. Below this, a red box contains the text 'Infinitive verbs' in white. On the right side, there is a portrait of a man in an orange blazer, with the text 'By Santosh Sir' below it.

Introduction to the course

- ❖ It's important that we have the knowledge of verbs along with the knowledge of tenses. So, this time we have brought a special course for you all.
- ❖ In this course you will get mastery on Verbs.
- ❖ Your spoken part will improve.
- ❖ Your written part will be rhetoric, after you have attended all the sessions of this course.

Defining an Infinitive Verb

An infinitive is formed from a verb but doesn't act as a verb.

Some examples of infinitive verbs include:

to be
to have
to hold
to sleep
to spend

Infinitives are never conjugated with -ed or -ing at the end because they are not used as verbs in a sentence. They're one of the three types of verbals, which are verbs used as an adjective, noun or adverb. The other verbals are gerunds and participles.

Infinitive Verb vs. Base Verb

Infinitives include the basic (unconjugated) form of a verb, but they don't function the same way. The most basic form of a verb is the base form. The base form is just the verb, without the "to." You'll see verbs in their basic forms in the dictionary, but not in written sentences that require conjugation.

Base forms of verbs include:

be
have
hold
sleep
spend

Using an Infinitive Verb

You can use infinitives in several ways. Because they function as nouns, adjectives and adverbs, they can appear almost anywhere. Now that you can spot an infinitive, take a look at the various ways they pop up in the English language.

Object of a Sentence

The most common way to use infinitive verbs is as a direct object or an indirect object. When the subject performs an action, the infinitive can answer the question “What?” as the object of that action.

Examples of the above infinitives used as direct include:

I want to be a doctor. (The verb is want)

Shane asked to have another hamburger. (The verb is ask)

The manager promised to hold the job for me. (The verb is promise)

Try to sleep a little more before our flight. (The verb is try)

Chuck hopes to spend less than \$30 on his haircut. (The verb is hope)

After Adjectives

You can use infinitive verbs after adjectives to clarify meaning. Adjectives that include the words “too” or “enough” require infinitives to fill in the rest of the meaning.

For example:

It’s too hard to be an astronaut. (The adjective is too hard)

Shane is too full to have another hamburger. (The adjective is too full)

The manager is nice to hold the job for me. (The adjective is nice)

It’s smart to sleep before our flight. (The adjective is smart)

Chuck is wealthy enough to spend \$30 on his haircut. (The adjective is wealthy enough)

Subject of a Sentence

Infinitives do appear as the subject of a sentence from time to time. One of the most famous examples of an infinitive as the subject of a sentence is Hamlet's immortal phrase, "To be or not to be" from Shakespeare's Hamlet.

You might see infinitives appear in sentences like this:

To be an astronaut is my dream.

To have a hamburger was what Shane wanted.

Even though they're grammatically correct, these sentences sound a bit awkward. You're better off changing these subjects to gerunds, which are -ing words that function as nouns (for example: "Being an astronaut is my dream." or "Sleeping before the flight is a good idea.")

Bare Infinitives

A bare infinitive is an infinitive without "to." It's not the same thing as a base verb; bare infinitives are still used as verbal in a sentence. You're most likely to see bare infinitives with modal verbs (would, could, can, should, will, may, might, ought to, shall, and others)

For example:

I could be an astronaut.

Shane might have another hamburger.

Can the manager hold the job for me?

About the Instructor

Santosh Sen (B.Ed. in English, University of Delhi)

Santosh Sir has wide teaching experience of more than 5 years in English Language and Literature. He is an ex-faculty of Exam Mitra Institute, Delhi. Students have known him as a teacher who makes English Learning easy by his short methods and tricks.

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