



**CLASS IX & X**  
**ENGLISH GRAMMAR**  
**PART II**  
**LESSON - 7**  
**NON-FINITE VERBS : THE INFINITIVE**

**NOTES**

**Non-finite** is a form of verb that does not display a distinction in tense in contrast with a **finite verb** where there is a distinction between present tense and past tense. A non-finite verb can be an **Infinitive, a Participle or a Gerund**.

**Infinitives:** They are non-finite verbs. Non-finite verbs in the base form with or without 'to' are called **infinitives**. They do not act as verbs but act as nouns, adjectives or adverbs.

**Important points which we need to remember about the Infinitives:**

**Infinitives:** to + base form of verb

**Example:** I want *to travel* around the world.

**Infinitives:** base form of verb used without 'to'. This Infinitive is called the 'bare' infinitive.

**Examples:** You need not *go*.

The following are cases where the *bare infinitive* is used.

i. After certain verbs like *bid, let, make, see, hear, need, dare* etc.

**Example:** I make them *clean* the room.

ii. After auxiliaries like *can, could, must, will, would, shall, should* etc.

**Example:** He can *go* now.

iii. After *would rather/ would sooner/ had better* etc.

**Example:** I had better *go*.

**Uses of Infinitive:**

The Infinitive can be used as –

i. The Subject of a Verb

**Examples:** **To find** fault is easy.





ii. The object of a Verb

**Examples:** She wants **to swim**.

iii. The Complement of a Verb.

**Examples:** He seems **to be** happy.

iv. The Object of the Prepositions like *but, about, except, than* etc.

**Examples:** She is about **to become** a doctor.

v. There is also an absolute use of the infinitive.

**Examples:** **To be** brief, the job is well done.

**Split Infinitive:** Infinitives are usually separated by inserting a word between the ‘to’ and the base form. This should be avoided as the infinitive is split. In short, **do not split infinitives**.

**Example:** Instead of saying, ‘He wanted us to carefully pull him up.’

Say ‘He wanted us to pull him up carefully.’

**The Infinitive has also passive form.**

**Example:** ‘to be done’ is the passive form of ‘to do’.

Many nouns like **desire, ability, ambition, demand, offer, request, scheme** etc. can be followed directly by the **Infinitive**.

Example: He has the ability to perform satisfactorily.

\*\*\*\*\*

