

Verbs

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'How to be Top' *English Workbook*

CHAPTER 4

- **VERBS**

FINITE

& NON-FINITE

- Present participle
- Past participle
- auxiliary
- infinitive

- verb 'to be'
- Revision
- **TENSE**
- **COMPREHENSION** (The Mohan Man-Eater)
- **CONCORD**
- **TRANSITIVE & INTRANSITIVE**
- **ACTIVE & PASSIVE**
- **WRITING** – a friendly letter

VERBS [doing words]

TYPES

1. FINITE VERBS All sentences must contain finite verbs.

These: must have a **subject** e.g I, you, we, he, they [He wrote.]
 must **make sense**. He **writing**. – (no sense) = **not** finite
 He **to write** – (no sense) = **not** finite
 He **written** – (no sense) = **not** finite.
 He **wrote**. – (sense) = finite verb

I **am** a student at Wynberg Boys'. I **find** English easy. I **get** high marks. [These are all finite verbs in the **present tense**.]

John **wrote** me a letter. In it he **told** me that he **loved** me. [These are all finite verbs in the **past tense**.]

2. OTHER TYPES OF VERBS

- * **Infinitive** - **to + verb** [**to run; to jump** I love **to run** down hills.
 [to run = infinitive love = finite verb]
- * **Present participle** - **any verb ending in ing** [running, jumping]
 While **running** down the hill, I broke my ankle.
 [running = present participle broke = finite verb]
 I was **running** when I **fell**.
 [was running = auxiliary + present participle - **together** = finite verb]
- * **Auxiliary** - **Helping verbs (helps the main action make sense in the sentence)-**
 am, are, was, were, has, have, had, will,
 will be, have been, etc. [**have** written, **will** write, **am** writing]

The **auxiliary gives tense to the main action (verb)** – past, future, continuous etc.

Auxiliary verb + main action (usually a participle) = finite verb.

I **have written** a letter. [have written = finite verb - past tense]
 I **will do** my homework now. [will do = finite verb – future tense]

NOTE **The Auxiliary verb** is a finite verb in its own right when not used with a participle.
 I **am** sick. John **was** here. We **are** twins. [am/was/are = finite verbs]

- * **past participle** = the **past tense** of the verb but it **must have an auxiliary**.
 I have **written** a letter. John has **swum** the channel.
 The moon has **risen**. We have **walked** a long way.

Did all that make sense? Test yourself.



Exercise 1 Write down all the underlined words and say what type of verb each one is.

a) Running awkwardly, the fat man b) fell on his face. He c) broke his nose. He d) had e) fallen before, but running f) was good for him. He g) needed h) to run often in order i) to lose weight. He j) is now no longer fat because he k) has l) lost twenty kilograms.

Exercise 2 Write down all the finite verbs. Note: they may consist of more than one word.

- a. I sleep on my bed. _____
- b. He pulled out his knife and stabbed her. _____
- c. I think that you are fantastic. _____
- d. There will be a storm tomorrow. _____
- e. I am doing it right now. _____
- f. What were you thinking of? _____
- g. She would have liked to come. _____
- h. The dog has hurt his paw. _____
- i. We have been watching this video all week. _____
- j. She has blamed me unfairly. _____

[10]

Exercise 3 Supply suitable **auxiliary verbs**:

- a. Do you think that he _____ go?
- b. I _____ go if I were you.
- c. I _____ be thirteen on Sunday.
- d. He told me that he _____ going home.
- e. He _____ finished when I arrived.
- f. If he _____ had the time, he _____ have done it.
- g. At one time I _____ study for eight hours a day.
- h. It _____ been a most difficult day.
- i. _____ we invite him to the party?
- j. I _____ been told that he had a happy disposition.

**[10]****Exercise 4** Give the **present participle** of the verb in brackets. **Spelling** must be correct.

- a. You are (be) stupid. _____
- b. Father is (shave) _____
- c. Father was (lie) down. _____
- d. He will be (tie) a knot. _____
- e. The clock has been (chime). _____
- f. The birds are (fly). _____
- g. The children were (panic). _____
- h. He is (shoe) his horse. _____
- i. The rain is (fall) _____
- j. We shall be (travel) fast. _____

**[10]**

TENSE

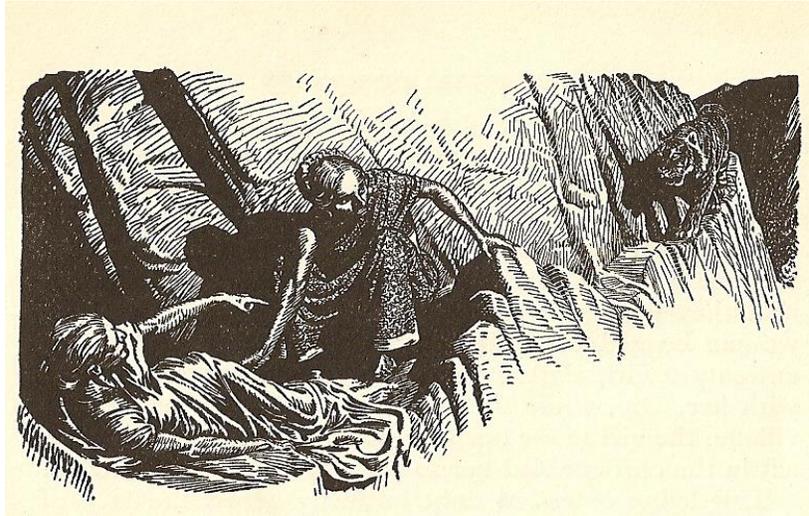
Auxiliary verbs give tense. (The time that the action took place)

Look at the table of tenses below and note how they are formed and what they mean.

Present	Present continuous (auxiliary + pres. part.)
I walk.	I am walking.
Past	Past continuous (auxiliary + pres. part.)
I walked.	I was walking.
Perfect (have/has + past participle)	Perfect continuous (aux + been + pres. part.)
I have walked.	I have been walking.
Pluperfect (past past) must have had	Pluperfect continuous (had been + pres. part)
I had walked.	I had been walking.
Future (shall/will)	Future continuous (shall/will be + pres. part)
I shall walk	I shall be walking.

Exercise 5 Complete the table below.

Present	Past	Perfect	Pluperfect	Pluperfect continuous
I write	I wrote	I have written	I had written	I had been writing.
I sing				
I do				
I go				
I hang (a picture)				
I hang (a man)				
I swim				
I run				
I ride				
I sew				
I see				
I read				
I chase				
I have				
I give				
I change				
I hit				
I swing				
I come				
I get				
I learn				
I pass				



The Mohan Man-Eater - Jim Corbett (adapted)

Eighteen miles from our summer home in the Himalayas there is a long ridge running east and west, some 9,000 feet in height. On the upper slopes of the eastern end of this ridge there is a luxuriant growth of oat-grass; below this grass the hill falls steeply away in a series of rock cliffs to the old Kosi River below.

One day, a party of women and girls from the village on the north face of the ridge were cutting the oat-grass, when a tiger suddenly appeared in their midst. In the stampede that followed an elderly woman lost her footing, rolled down the steep slope, and disappeared over the cliff. The tiger, evidently alarmed by the screams of the women, vanished as mysteriously as it had appeared, and when the women had re-assembled and recovered from their fright, they went down the grassy slope and, looking over the cliff, saw their companion lying on a narrow ledge some distance below them.

The woman said she was badly injured and it was decided that a rescue was a job for men. As no-one appeared to be willing to remain on the spot, they informed the woman that they were going back to the village for help. She begged not to be left alone. At her entreaty a sixteen-year-old girl volunteered to stay with her and made her way down a rift in the cliff and onto the narrow ledge. This ledge ended where the woman was lying in a shallow depression. There was only room for one in this depression, so the girl squatted, as only an Indian can squat, on the ledge facing the woman.

They spoke in whispers, for fear the tiger might be close by and hear them, speculating as to how long it would take before a rescue party might arrive from the village four miles away. Suddenly the woman gave a gasp and the girl, seeing the look of horror on her face and the direction in which she was looking, turned her head and over her shoulder saw the tiger, stepping out of the rift in the cliff on to the ledge. Few of us can imagine this worst of nightmares; a rock cliff with a narrow ledge running partly across it

and ending in a little depression in which an injured woman is lying; a young girl frozen with terror squatting on the ledge, and a tiger slowly creeping towards her; retreat in every direction cut off and no help at hand.

Mothi Singh, an old friend of mine, headed the rescue party. When they looked over the cliff, the men saw the woman lying in a swoon, and on the ledge they saw splashes of blood.

1. Quote two separate words that tell us that this story is told by Jim Corbett himself. (2)
2. What do we call this type of narration or story-telling? (1)
3. Quote two words that tell us this tragedy occurred in a mountainous place. (2)
4. Identify the part of speech of **party** of women. (1)
5. What caused the old woman to fall down the cliff? (3)
6. Write down **one adjective** which you think best describes the young girl who stayed with her. (1)
7. Give two reasons for the girl to be very frightened. (2)
8. "a young girl frozen with terror" – is this literal or figurative? (1)
9. What is the verb formed from *entreaty*? (1)
10. Give a synonym for *swoon* (last line). (1)
11. Write down **2 infinitives** from paragraph 3. (2)
12. Quote a **present participle** from the last line of paragraph 3. (1)
13. Quote the **finite verb** in the 2nd last sentence (beginning Mothi Singh). (1)
14. Give your own synonym for a *depression* in the context of this story. (1)

[20]

Exercise 6 Supply suitable **finite verbs**. (Hint – no. of spaces = no. of verbs)

- a. We cannot go now because it _____ too late.
- b. I realized that it _____ useless.
- c. We were told that Acapulco _____ in Mexico.
- d. That _____ many years ago.
- e. He was as excited as if he _____ a fortune.
- f. I _____ that you will like it.
- g. They are grateful to you for what you _____.
- h. He showed me a photograph of the lion he _____.
- j. He told us that he _____ here tomorrow.

[10]



CONCORD This means that **subject and verb have to agree**. A **singular subject** takes a **singular verb** and a **plural subject** takes a **plural verb**.

SINGULAR	PLURAL
He is clever. I am clever.	They are clever.
Bread and butter is tasty (2 subjects treated as one)	John and Mary are good friends.
The hen, with the chickens, is lost The teacher, as well as the children, is tired.	The hen and chickens are lost. The teacher and the children are tired.
Neither the pupils nor the teacher is happy. [When subjects are joined by neither...nor / either...or the verb agrees with the subject closest to it.	Neither the teacher nor the pupils are happy.
The following ALWAYS take a singular verb. Everybody is coming. Anything seems to be good enough. Neither of the 2 girls has come. Nobody has seen it. Everyone has done his share. NONE may have singular or plural verb.	None of them (was/were) present.
All (everything) is lost	All the people are happy.
Collective noun = singular A swarm of bees is dangerous. The team has been chosen. The group has decided to disband. The bunch of flowers smells sweet.	But sometimes meaning insists on a plural verb. The team are fighting amongst themselves. The group have finally come together The board of directors do not agree.
Much money has been made. Most of the work has been done. There is little food. There is less work to do. This is the least you can do.	Many books are in the library. More people are poor today. Few people are here. Fewer people are here.



Exercise 7 Fill in either **has to** or **have to**:

- a. John _____ weed the garden.
- b. One of my sisters _____ iron my shirts.
- c. Neither Peter nor James _____ rewrite the examination.
- d. Both of them _____ plant the trees.
- f. You _____ wind the clock daily.
- g. His trousers _____ be lengthened.
- h. Each of the boys _____ bring R20.00 tomorrow.
- i. The house, together with the furniture, _____ be sold.
- j. The cattle _____ be dipped. **[10]**

Exercise 8 Correct the form of the verb in brackets.

- a. My finger was so badly (swell) that my mother (call) a doctor.
- b. After (to milk) the cows, I always (to carry) the pails to the dairy.
- c. His clothes look as if they (wear) for many years.
- d. I (to know) all along that he (may) not be able to come.
- e. Having (spring) into the sea, he (swim) to her aid. **[10]**

TRANSITIVE (vt.) and INTRANSITIVE (vi) VERBS

- **Transitive** verbs are followed by an **object** (a thing).
The pilot **flew** the aeroplane. The boy **kicked** the ball.
- **Intransitive** verbs are **not** followed by an object.
The bird **flew** in the sky. The girl **fell** over.



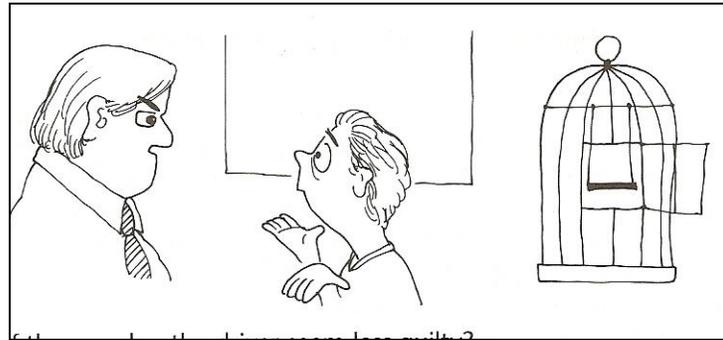
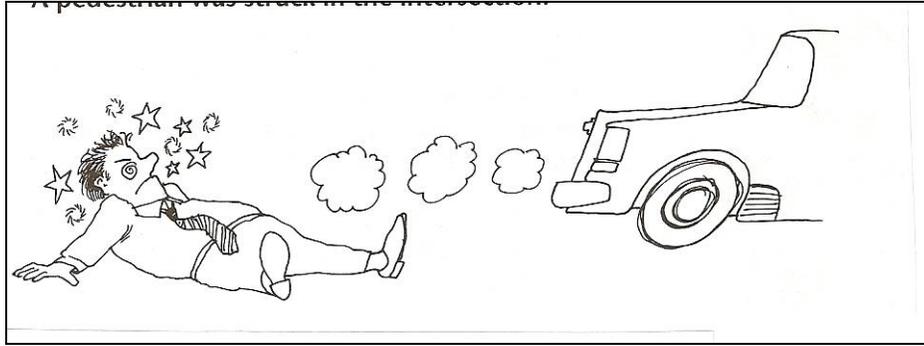
Exercise 9 Choose the **correct word** in the brackets and say whether it is **transitive or intransitive**.

- a. Agnes always (wins/beats) me at maths. _____
- b. Agnes always (wins/beats) at tennis. _____
- c. John (tore/broke) his pants. _____
- d. Mr Adams (learns/teaches) us English. _____
- e. I shall (lend/borrow) a pencil from Joe. _____
- f. I (lay/lie) down when I am tired. _____
- g. I shall (convince/persuade) her to come. _____
- h. I will (convince/persuade) him that he is wrong. _____
- i. He (avenged/revenged) himself on his enemy. _____
- j. Some thieves (robbed/stole) his money. _____
- k. Some thieves (robbed/stole) him of his money. _____
- l. The man (sat/seated) himself at the table. _____
- m. The parents of the boy (was/were) killed in the accident. _____
- n. John will (lay/lie) the table for us. _____ [14]

Exercise 10

- a. Which sentences above contain an **intransitive verb**? _____ /3/
- b. Identify the verbs in each of these sentences as transitive or intransitive:
 John rolled down the hill. _____
 John rolled the ball down the hill. _____ /2/

ACTIVE AND PASSIVE VOICE



Active – The subject does the action. [Mrs Crawford **struck** a pedestrian at the intersection.]

[**I left** the cage open and the canary escaped.]

Passive – The subject has the action done to it. [**A pedestrian was struck** at the intersection.]

[**The cage was left** open and the canary escaped.]

- * Usually one would say *The cage was left open by me*, but the passive is sometimes deliberately vague to **avoid being accused**.
- * The Passive is also used when we **don't know who has done the action**.
It is said that girls are cleverer than boys. [We don't know who said this.]

Exercise 9 Change Active to Passive or vice versa. Decide when it is appropriate to indicate who has done the action.

- a. The magician performs many tricks. _____
- b. We kept our coffee cups in a cupboard. _____
- c. Polar Bears eat seals. _____
- d. Learn this work by Thursday. _____
- e. Who broke the window? _____

- f. The artist hung the picture on the wall. _____
- g. Peter always knew our secrets. _____
- h. The laundry will shrink your shirt. _____
- i. The test must be passed. _____

Revision Tests

Exercise 11 Complete the **idioms**.

- a. Once bitten, twice _____
- b. She is the apple of her _____
- c. He drove a stiff _____
- d. Let us sit and chew the _____
- e. He won hands _____



[5]

Exercise 12 Write down the **auxiliary verbs**.

- a. He is looking well.
- b. I have seen it already.
- c. He did explain it.
- d. He will tell you.
- e. You are not listening.

Exercise 13 Write down the **infinitives**.

- a. I need water to drink.
- b. He wanted to ask him.
- c. We are about to leave.
- d. I was surprised to see her.
- e. I hope to pass this year.

REMEMBER never split an infinitive. Do not insert a word between **to** and the **verb**.

I want you **to please hurry**. - is WRONG.
I want you **to hurry** please. - is CORRECT

Exercise 14 Correct all the **split infinitives** below.

- a. They were asked to slowly approach the creature.
- b. He wanted to boldly go where no man had before.
- c. He wanted to rudely reply but did not.
- d. I want you to always think before you act.
- e. I want to never do that again. **[5]**

Exercise 15 Write in the **PASSIVE VOICE**

- My sister laid the table.
- Someone has lost a wallet.
- Did the news excite her?
- The police have made an arrest.
- My grandmother gave me a present.

[5]

Exercise 16 Give the correct form of the verb in brackets.

- Bob always [wins] me at tennis.
- He kindly wants to [borrow] me money.
- John [studying] at the moment.
- Yesterday I discovered that he [was killed] a week ago.
- She said that she [will] like to go with us.

[5]

