



Learn Verbs as Part of Speech for Bank & SSC Exams - English Notes in PDF

Are you preparing for Banking & SSC exams? Do you know the common feature of all the Banking & SSC Exams? It is the English Section which prevails in all the exams. This section holds a good weightage in the paper & help you to boost up your overall score. Knowing the basic rules of grammar & vocabulary is the key to ace this section with accuracy. The Eight Parts of Speech is considered of the English Language. In order to make your base strong for this section, we have come up with our Parts Of Speech Series. This article will clear your conception one of them i.e Verbs. Read this article to know all about Verbs as Part of Speech including its types & boost up your preparation for exams like SSC CGL descriptive paper, SSC CHSL, RBI Assistant Mains etc.

Before moving ahead with the Verbs, let's have a look at what are parts of speech in brief:

Parts of Speech

Parts of speech are the basic categories of words according to their function in a sentence. It is a category to which a word is assigned in accordance with its syntactic functions. English has eight main parts of speech, namely, Nouns, Pronouns, Adjectives, Verbs, Adverbs, Prepositions, Conjunctions & Interjections. In grammar, the parts of speech, also called lexical categories, grammatical categories or word classes is a linguistic category of words.

Verbs as Part of Speech











Verbs as part of speech are used to signify the actions, processes, conditions, or states of being of people or things. It is basically a word that characteristically is the grammatical center of a predicate and expresses an act, occurrence, or mode of being, that in various languages is inflected for agreement with the subject, for tense, for voice, for mood, or for aspect, and that typically has full descriptive meaning and characterizing quality in it.

Examples:

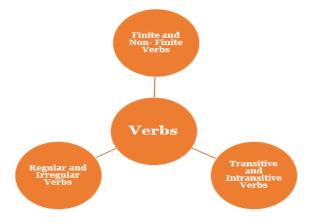
Priya cleaned the table.

Here cleaned is the verb as it shows the action performed by Priya.

Maya is an intelligent girl.

Here though no action is being performed here, the state of being is expressed through the verb *is*.

Classification of Verbs as Part of Speech













1. Finite and Non-Finite Verbs

Finite Verb - A finite verb is the main verb of a sentence and has a direct relationship to the subject of a sentence or clause. A sentence with a finite verb does not require another verb in the sentence in order to be grammatically correct.

Examples:

- 1. I **play** every day.
- 2. She **skips** many classes.

She **cried** for hours.

All the verbs mentioned above are finite verbs as they *express actions directly related to the subject of the sentence*. The only verbs that can be said to be finite are those in their **base form** (eat, play, read- all the infinitive form without **to**), their past tense form, or their third-person singular form (eats, plays, reads).

Infinite Verb -_Verb forms that are never considered finite and are known as non-finite verbs are **gerunds**, **infinitives**, **and participles** (both past and present).

Example:

1. The teacher **is teaching** the French Revolution.

Here, the present continuous verb 'is teaching' has been used. Note that 'teaching' is present participle form and is considered as a non-finite verb. The finite verb in the sentence is the auxiliary verb 'is'.

Consider the following:













- a) The teacher **is** 'is' is finite as it has a direct relationship with the subject and can form innumerable complete sentences:
 - The teacher is smiling.
 - The teacher is angry.
 - The teacher is pretty.
- b) The teacher **teaching** The present participle 'teaching' as given cannot make sentences as made by the finite verb 'is'. Sentences like *The teacher teaching English* will be incorrect. Therefore, it is called a non-finite verb.

Refer to the table below:

| Finite | | Non- finite | |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|------------------|
| You | write | Gita kept | reading |
| It | was | Eager | to finish |
| Someone | will sing | They left | Unattended |
| | | the vehicle | |
| You | are imitating | | |
| The | were active | | |
| journalists | | | |

2. Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

Transitive Verb - This describes an action that is happening to someone or something. This person or thing is known as the direct object of the verb.

Examples:











• He is **holding** *a pen*.

Here the action of *holding* is happening to *a pen*.

• I **borrowed** *the book* from the library.

Here the action of *borrowed* is happening to *the book*.

• I was **reading** an interesting book last night.

Here the action reading is happening to an interesting book.

Moreover, transitive verbs can also take indirect objects, which are the people or things receiving the direct object.

Example:

I mailed the draft to my boss.

Here my boss receives the draft through the action of mailing.

Intransitive Verbs - These verbs do not have objects, i.e., no one/nothing is receiving their action.

Examples:

Meera runs.

Here there is no object receiving the action of running.

• I cannot believe that the riots **broke out**.









Here there is no object receiving the action of *broke out*.

• The morbid scenes in the movie made me **puke**.

Here there is no object receiving the action of *puke*.

Do not disturb while the children sing.

Here there is no object receiving the action of sing.

3. Regular and Irregular Verbs

As each verb is either transitive or intransitive, each one is either regular or irregular.

Regular verbs - They are those to whose base form "-d" or "-ed" can be added to form both the past simple tense and past participle forms.

Examples:

| Base Form | Simple Past | Past Participle |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| I bake cookies. | I baked cookies. | I had baked cookies. |
| They mint coins. | They minted coins. | They had minted coins. |
| We play chess. | We played chess. | We had played chess. |

Irregular verbs - They are those verbs whose past tense and past participle forms are usually completely different from one another. And since they do not follow any predictable pattern, one has no other option but to learn each one separately.

| Base Form | Simple Past | Past Participle |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| I do yoga. | I did yoga. | I had done yoga. |











| I see a cat. | I saw a cat. | I had seen a cat. |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| I drive slowly. | I drove slowly. | I had driven slowly. |

Forms of Verbs as Part of Speech:

- **1. Tenses:** The different forms of verbs show different meanings with respect to time. Such forms are known as tenses and there are three types of tenses: Present, Past, Future.
- **2. Auxiliary Verb:** They are also called as helping verbs, auxiliary verbs are used to complete the meaning of other primary or "main" verbs in a sentence. The different tense forms of 'be', 'have' and 'do' verbs form the auxiliary verb.

Examples:

- I am working on the assignment.
- She does not teach anymore.
- Have you seen Gita?
- Maya is singing a song.
- **3. Modal Verbs:** It expresses the possibility, likelihood or a future intention. These are *can, could, will, would, shall, should, must, may, and might.* They are only followed by a verb in its base form.

Examples:

- May I sit down? (Permission)
- I can study the whole night. (Ability)
- I may be late for the party. (Possibility)











- You **must finish** the homework on time. (Obligation)
- You **should reach** on time. (Advice)
- Would you mind reading? (Request or offer)
- **4. Phrasal Verbs:** These are the verbs which pair with prepositions to form unique meanings. Most of the meanings are idiomatic expressions.

Examples:

- Ultimately she gave up.
- I have been **looking for** my spectacles since an hour.
- He has been looking after his neighbour's pet.
- **5. Causative Verbs:** These are the verbs which are used to indicate that a person or thing is causing another action or an event to happen. They are generally followed by a noun or pronouns and an infinitive verb that is not causative.

Examples:

- She let her hair loose.
- The hearing aid enabled Maya to listen clearly.

Subject-Verb Agreement

For a complete understanding of the Verbs, one needs to get acquainted with the concept of Subject-Verb Agreement. In any sentence, the use of verb according to the number of subjects or the persons is called <u>verb agreement</u>.

Examples:











• Maya sings a song.

Here Maya is a single person or subject, therefore the singular verb 'sings' has to be used.

• The **students sing** a song.

Here 'Students' is a plural noun, therefore, the plural verb 'sing' is used.

Let's understand the singular and plural in order to use correct forms of verbs:

| Singular Verb | Plural Verb | |
|---------------------|-----------------|--|
| is | are | |
| was | were | |
| has | have | |
| V1 + s/es (sings, | V1 (sing, make, | |
| makes, plays, etc.) | play, etc.) | |

Keep the following in mind for Subject-Verb Agreement:

1. If two subjects are connected with the conjunction 'and', use the plural form of the verb.

Example - Sita and Gita are dancing.

2. If several nouns or adjectives are used for a single subject, use the singular verb.

Example - My friend, philosopher and guide have has come.











3. If two subjects are connected by "as well as", "with", "along with", "together with", "and not", "in addition to", "but", "besides", "except", "rather than", "accompanied by", "like", "unlike", "no less than", "nothing but", then the verb should agree with the first subject.

Example - Priya as well as Shriya are is going to the concert.

My younger son unlike the older one is naughty.

4. If an article is used only with the first subject, it means that only one person or thing is being referred to. So in this case, a singular verb has to be used.

Example - A black and white photograph was taken by her.

Ashoka was a great king and a warrior of his time.

However, if an article is used before every subject, it implies that different subjects and objects are there, therefore plural verb has to be used.

Example - The doctor and the mentor have come.

5. If two subjects are connected with "neither...nor", "either...or", "not only...but also", "nor", "or" and "none- but", the verb will be according to the latter subject.

Example - Neither Maya nor Sita has arrived yet.

Either you or your friends should leave.

6. The verb should agree with the main verb. Be careful **not to** place it in accordance with the nearest subject.

Example - The **quantity** of oranges **is** less.











Ramya and not her friends is at fault.

7. If a Relative Pronoun (who, which, that etc.) is used to connect a subject and a verb, then the verb would be according to that Subject which precedes that Relative Pronoun.

Example - She is one of the oldest **women** that (relative pronoun) has **have** ever walked on the Earth.

I am one of **those who** (relative pronoun) will trust everyone who I they meet.

Rules to use Verbs as Part of Speech

1. If two subjects used in a sentence do not have the same number, use separate auxiliaries for both of them.

Example - Incorrect - Five apples sold and one were purchased.

Correct - Five apples were sold and one was purchased.

2. A single verb should be used for a subject only when the form of the verb is same for both the subjects.

Example - Incorrect - I am intelligent and my sister creative.

Correct - I am intelligent and my sister is creative.

Maya is sixteen and Tushita (is) twenty. (Correct)

3. A Past Tense in the main clause should be followed by a Past Tense in the subordinate clause.











Example - Incorrect - Pratima failed because she misses classes.

Correct - Pratima failed because she missed classes.

4. A Past Tense in the main clause can be followed by a Present Tense in the subordinate clause when the subordinate clause expresses a universal truth.

Example - Incorrect - We were told that the Earth moved round the sun.

Correct - We were told that the Earth **moves** round the sun.

5. Modal auxiliaries are not used together, but they can be connected by a conjunction.

Example - Incorrect - You should must come.

Correct - You should and must come.

Now that you have read the Adjectives as Part of Speech, know more about the other two parts of speech by clicking on the button below:

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