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И. О. Сыресина, И. П. Гурова, С. В. Бондаренко, Е. Н. Горбачева

**ПРАКТИЧЕСКАЯ ГРАММАТИКА
АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА:
НЕЛИЧНЫЕ ФОРМЫ ГЛАГОЛА**
**Practical English Grammar:
Non-Finite Verbs**

**English
Grammar**

The Participle

The Participle
The Infinitive
The Gerund
English Grammar

The Gerund

Москва
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Рецензенты:

Г. Н. Гумовская, доктор филологических наук, профессор НИУ
«Высшая школа экономики» (Москва)
Galina Gumovskaya, Professor of National Research University “Higher
School of Economics” (Moscow)
Е. А. Никулина, доктор филологических наук, профессор ФГБОУ ВО
«Московский педагогический государственный университет»
Elena Nikulina, Professor of Moscow Pedagogical State University

Сыресеина, Ирина Олеговна.

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Учебное пособие содержит обзор теоретического материала и комплекс практических заданий, освещающих особенности функционирования неличных форм английского глагола. Предлагаемые задания позволяют усовершенствовать навыки использования неличных форм глагола в устной и письменной речи, а также перейти от анализа предложений и текстов-образцов к созданию своих собственных речевых произведений различной жанровой направленности.

Предназначается для изучающих английский язык на продвинутом уровне, студентов и магистрантов языковых вузов, преподавателей английского языка.

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CHAPTER I. The Infinitive

The infinitive is the non-finite form of the verb which combines the properties of the verb with those of the noun, serving as the verbal name of a process.

The infinite distinguishes the three grammatical categories sharing them with the finite verb, namely, the aspective category of development (continuous in opposition), the aspective category of retrospective coordination (perfect in opposition), the category of voice (passive in opposition).

The infinitive possesses the verb combinability:

- a) the Infinitive of a transitive verb can take a direct object
*e.g. I decided **to rent a cottage** for the summer beside the sea.*
- b) the Infinitive can be modified by adverbs
*e.g. I began **to wonder fearfully** what would be done to me.*

The nominal features of the Infinitive are revealed only in its syntactic functions of an object, a subject and a predicative.

*e.g. I will not attempt **to describe** my publications. (object)*

*e.g. **To say yes** would provoke Wesley into derisive laughter, to say no would be a betrayal of Darrell and Trix. (subject)*

*e.g. Another of Joan Lunt's curious habits was **to drink**, alone, in the early evening. (predicative)*

The English infinitive exists in two presentation forms. One of them is distinguished by the marker (the particle) *to* and is called traditionally the “to-infinitive”, the “marked infinitive” or the “full infinitive”. The other form does not employ the marker *to* and is called the “bare infinitive” or the “unmarked infinitive”.

The bare infinitive is used in the following cases:

- 1. after auxiliary verbs: do, shall, will, should and would
e.g. I'll be glad to come.
- 2. after modal verbs: can, may, must, shall, will, should
e.g. Mark, if you lie in court you could be in big trouble.
e.g. If attention, in future, could do away the past, she might hope to be forgiven.
- 3. after the verbs *to dare* and *to need*, when they are used in their modal meanings

e.g. He didn't know what he was talking of, I dare say; ten to one but he was light-headed at the time.

4. after the modal phrases: had better, would rather/sooner, cannot/could not but, do nothing/anything but

e.g. I had better go into the house and die.

e.g. There was little to do but wait.

5. as part of a "complex object" construction after:

- a) verbs of sense perception: to see, to hear, to feel, to watch, to observe, to notice

e.g. Eva didn't hear herself scream, wasn't aware of her rush through the branches till she saw the people turn and point, and a gun go up.

- b) verbs of compulsion: to make, to have, to let, to bid

e.g. Please don't make me laugh.

6. in sentences beginning with *why*

e.g. But why look? It will only bring pain.

In some cases either the bare infinitive or the full infinitive can be used:

- a) after the verb *to help*

e.g. Though he hated lawyers, he found it difficult to believe one would actually help a child escape.

- b) as a predicative when the subject of a sentence is expressed by the words *all*, *the most*, *the least* followed by a subordinate attributive clause

e.g. All he wanted was to move away with Eva through the tree paths, back into the depth of the wood, together.

e.g. All she wanted to do was hide, vanish, creep away into dark green shadows.

e.g. Doreen's shift ended at five, and the last thing she did was check on Mark.

- c) as an adverbial modifier of comparison after the conjunction *than*

e.g. He could not do less than give it: at least I thought so at the time.

Occasionally, an adverb or a particle may be inserted between the infinitive stem and the particle *to*. Such an infinitive is called "the split infinitive".

e.g. She'd told them to either produce a search warrant, or get the hell off her property.

e.g. It might be too hard to actually find the body, you know.

The particle *to* is often used without the Infinitive if it is easily understood from the context.

e.g. You can watch him die if you want to, but I'm gone.

1.1. The Grammatical categories of the Infinitive

The infinitive has the three grammatical categories those of the aspective category of development (continuous in opposition), the aspective category of retrospective coordination (perfect in opposition), the category of voice (passive in opposition). Consequently, the categorial paradigm of the infinitive of the transitive verb includes eight forms and the categorial paradigm of the infinitive of the intransitive verb includes four forms:

Aspect \ Voice		Active	Passive
Non-Perfect	Indefinite	to come to write	– to be written
	Continuous	to be coming to be writing	– <i>to be being written</i>
Perfect	Perfect	to have come to have written	– to have been written
	Perfect Continuous	to have been coming to have been writing	– <i>to have been being written</i>

The continuous and perfect continuous passive infinitives can only be used with strong stylistic colouring.

The non-perfect infinitive denotes an action simultaneous with that of the finite verb.

e.g. Once again, Reggie attempted to fold the map.

It also may denote an action preceding or following the action denoted by the finite verb.

The non-perfect infinitive denotes an action following the action denoted by the finite verb when used as:

1. an adverbial modifier of purpose
e.g. Sniff turned his head and grunted to the others to follow.
2. part of a compound verbal modal predicate
e.g. As I have explained, I was about to leave London.
3. part of a complex object after the verbs of compulsion
e.g. Well, let me ask you something.

The non-perfect infinitive denotes an action preceding the action denoted by the finite verb when used as an object after participle II, which expresses different emotions such as fear, surprise, anger etc.

e.g. I was very much shocked to hear of this melancholy accident, and said I thought I had better have some water.

The perfect infinitive denotes an action prior to the action expressed by the finite verb.

e.g. You pretend to have bought it for yourself, but you have really done so to confer a benefit on him.

After the verbs *to mean*, *to expect*, *to intend*, *to hope* used in the Past Indefinite, the perfect infinitive shows that an action wasn't carried out.

e.g. I meant to have done it.

The active infinitive points out that the action is directed from the subject, the passive infinitive indicates that the action is directed to the subject.

e.g. In time, of course, Mr. Knightley would be forgotten, that is, supplanted; but this could not be expected to happen very early.

However, there are cases when the active form of an infinitive is passive in its meaning. Such an infinitive is called "retroactive".

e.g. You'll find lots to see here.

e.g. There was no reasonable thing to do.

e.g. There was plenty to fear without thinking of muggers.

1.2. Syntactic functions of the Infinitive in the sentence

The infinitive can be used in different syntactic functions. It can be used alone (without any words depending on it), as an infinitive phrase or as part of an infinitive predicative construction (a complex with the Infinitive).

1. The infinitive as **a subject**

The infinitive functioning as a subject may either precede the predicate or follow it. In the latter case it is introduced by the introductory *it*, which serves as an introductory subject.

e.g. To remember those foods brings the hunger back now, the sudden rush of it, the pain.

e.g. It was foolish, it was wrong, to take so active a part in bringing any two people together.

2. The infinitive as **part of a compound nominal predicate (a predicative)**

e.g. His ambition was some day to build a house on them.

3. The infinitive as **part of a compound modal predicate**

e.g. She may have changed since you saw her last.

4. The infinitive as **part of a compound aspect predicate**

It is used after verbs denoting the beginning (to begin, to start etc.), the duration (to continue, to go on, used to, would etc.), or the end of an action (to cease, to finish, to stop etc.).

e.g. Rivera hung up and Dennis continued to hold the receiver to his ear.

The verbs *to begin*, *to start*, *to continue*, *to go on*, *to cease* can also be followed by a gerund. As a rule, the infinitive followed by such verbs denotes one-time action while the gerund is preferred for habitual actions.

e.g. Agents, some in suits and some in jeans, began moving around as the plane taxied to them.

e.g. People began to murmur there was something strange about that woman.

Only the infinitive (not the gerund) is used with the verbs *to begin* and *to start* if:

a) The subject of a sentence is inanimate

e.g. It was remarked that the clock began to strike, and I began to cry, simultaneously.

b) These verbs are used in the Continuous tense forms

e.g. The restaurant was beginning to fill.

e.g. She was tired, scared, and beginning to snap at him.

c) They are followed by the verbs *to understand, to realize, to know, to see and to feel* (= *to understand*)

e.g. Elinor began to feel it necessary to pay her a visit.

5. The infinitive as **an object**

The infinitive is used as an object after:

a) some verbs (*to agree, to arrange, to attempt, to choose, to claim, to decide, to deserve, to fail, to fear, to hesitate, to hope, to manage, to prefer, to swear, etc.*) and verbal set-phrases (*to make sure, to make up one's mind, to take care, to take the trouble, can afford, can bear*)

e.g. When she left for Rome, they promised to write to her, they made her promise to write to them.

e.g. Certainly, and I think I may afford to give them five hundred pounds a-piece.

b) some adjectives and adjectivized participles (*anxious, curious, careful, difficult, eager, easy, interested, easy, impatient, ready, slow, sorry, worthy, etc.*)

e.g. I'm sorry to have involved you both.

e.g. He seemed really anxious to accommodate them.

c) some statives (*afraid, agog, ashamed*)

e.g. He was near panic, and was afraid to leave the city.

e.g. I'm agog as to how you explain this.

6. The infinitive as **an attribute**

The infinitive used as an attribute can modify:

a) Nouns, both abstract and concrete

e.g. Oh, if only I had been given the time to tell her all myself.

e.g. There was still quite a long way to go.

b) Indefinite or negative pronouns (*somebody, something, anybody, anything, anyone, nobody*)

e.g. Christian was also someone to be reckoned with.

e.g. There is nothing to talk about.

c) Substantivized ordinal numerals (especially *first*), substantivized adjectives (*next and last*)

e.g. The victim was a senator, the first ever to be murdered, they alleged, while in office.

- d) Pronouns *much, many, little, few, (no) more, (no) less, a little more, enough*; the noun-substitute *one*

e.g. Ord had called Foltrigg twice during the morning, but, uncharacteristically, the great man had little to say.

The infinitive as an attribute often has a modal meaning (of possibility or necessity), except in combinations like “He was the first (last, only one) to do so”, where it expresses an actual fact (“= He was the first who did so”).

7. The infinitive as **an adverbial modifier**

The infinitive can be used as an adverbial modifier of purpose, consequence, attendant circumstances, result, comparison, condition, exception, time and cause.

- a) an adverbial modifier of **purpose**

In this function the action denoted by the infinitive is always a hypothetical one following the action denoted by the predicate.

e.g. The others came out to meet them.

The infinitive as an adverbial modifier of purpose can be introduced by the conjunctions *in order* and *so as*.

e.g. I was at that moment still undecided about whether or not to delay my departure in order to consolidate my peace with the Baffins on Sunday.

- b) an adverbial modifier of **result**

The infinitive is used after adjectives modified by the adverbs *enough* and *too* or in *so... as to...*, *such as to...*

e.g. He slid through the grass like a lizard, and opened the gate just wide enough to slide through.

e.g. My father says I'm too young to know about love and perhaps he is right.

e.g. The storm was so strong as to pull the biggest trees out with its roots.

e.g. The storm was such as to pull the biggest trees out with its roots.

- c) an adverbial modifier of **comparison**

The infinitive is introduced by the conjunctions *as if*, *as though* or *than*.

e.g. Ricky raised his head as if to retreat.