

GRAMMAR

DAY 3

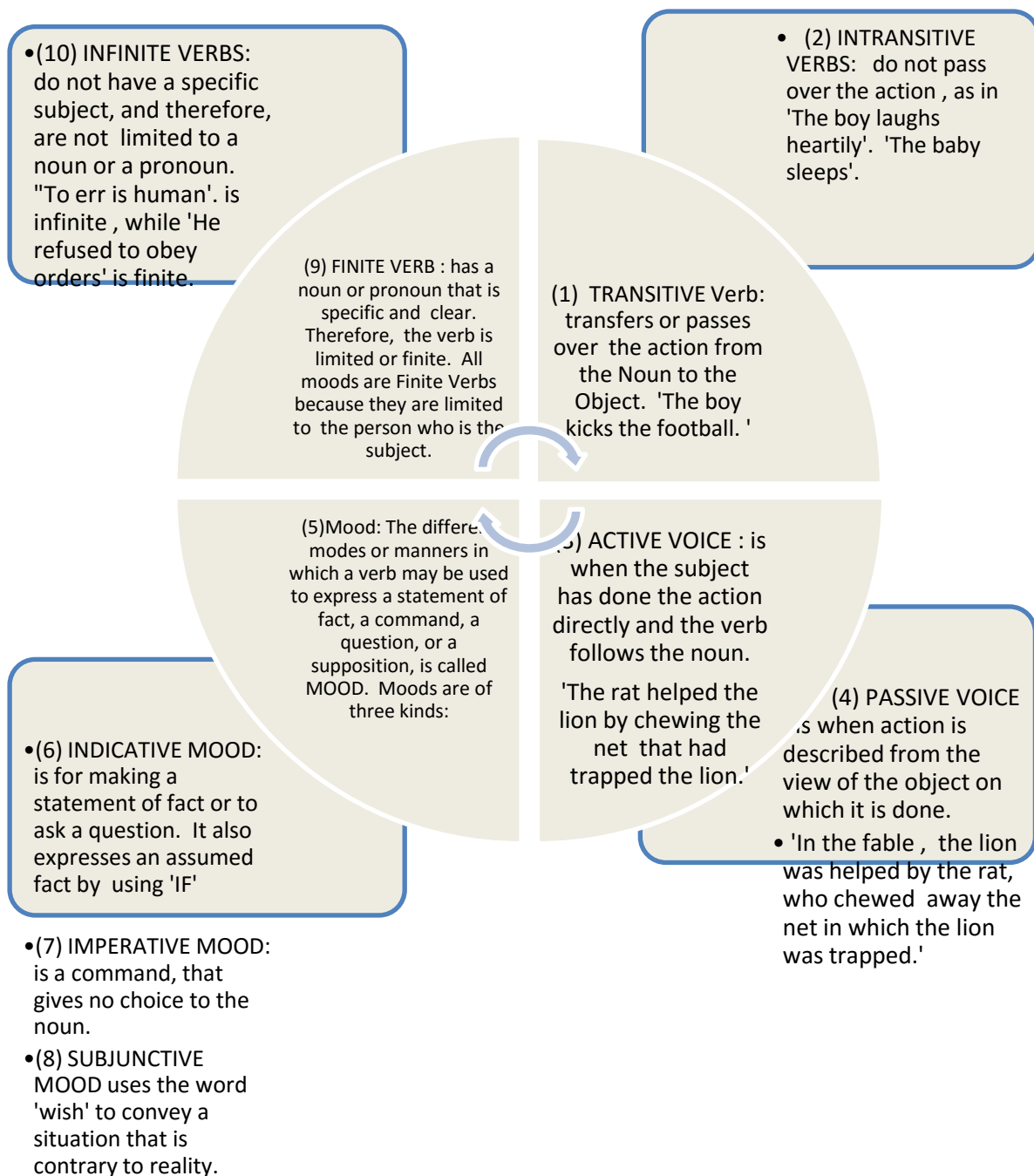
1. VERBS: “A Verb is a word that tells or asserts something about a person or thing” Its root is in the Latin ‘verbum’ meaning ‘the word’.
 - 1.2. It is called ‘the word’ because it is the most important word in a sentence. Verb is the ‘doing word’ in a sentence. It is often ‘a group of words’ (a verb phrase) that conveys the action in the sentence. Other words can be implied, but a verb has to be stated. Example, in the Imperative Sentence, “Sit down”, the pronoun in the Subject ‘you’, is implied, and yet the meaning is clearly conveyed through the Verb.

2. As a Verb denotes action in a sentence, it is associated with time of the action – When? Where? How? On whom? With whom? By whom? Etc., Therefore, the following are associated when dealing with Verbs :
 - a) Transitive and Intransitive Verbs,
 - b) Active and Passive Voice,
 - c) Indicative, Imperative, and Subjunctive Mood,
 - d) Past, Present, and Future Tense,
 - e) Finite and Infinite Verb,
 - f) The Participle Phrase,
 - g) Gerund,
 - h) Agreement of Verb with the Subject
 - i) Strong and Weak Verbs
 - j) Auxiliary Verbs

3. Uses of TENSE : Note here the 12 tenses in Active voice and 8 in Passive voice

		Simple	Continuous	Perfect	Perfect Continuous
Past Tense	Active voice	I played	I was playing	I had played	I had been playing
	Passive Voice	I was played	I was being played	I had been played	
Present Tense	Active voice	I play	I am playing	I have played	I have been playing
	Passive Voice	I am played	I am being played	I have been played	
Future Tense	Active voice	I shall play	I shall be playing	I shall have played	I shall have been playing
	Passive Voice	I shall be played		I shall have been played	

4. Aspects associated with Verbs as per paragraph 2 above



5. **The PARTICIPLE and the Participle Phrase:** When a verb carries out the functions of a VERB + an Adjective, it is called a Participle. It may also be called a 'Verbal Adjective'. 'Hearing the noise, the girl woke up.' In this sentence, Hearing is qualifying the noun 'girl' and is, therefore, doing the function of an adjective. It also controls the noun in the Object part of the sentence.

5.1 'Hearing the noise', is a Participle Phrase, that represents the action that is going on in the sentence. Here it is a Present Participle.

Participle phrases can be in past tense and future tense also. ‘Time misspent is time lost.’

6. **GERUND:** is a Verb + a Noun. When the Verb carries out the function of a Noun also, it is called a Gerund. “Reading is her favourite pastime”. Here ‘Reading’, is used as a subject, and is therefore, doing the function of a Noun, and as it is formed from the verb ‘to read’, it is also a verb. As such, it is a Gerund.
7. **AGREEMENT OF VERB WITH THE SUBJECT:** The Verb has to agree with the Subject in Person and in Number:
 - a. If two or more singular nouns refer to the same Subject or thing, the Verb is in singular ‘My friend and benefactor has come.’
 - b. Two or more subjects take a Plural verb. ‘Rama and Hari are here.’
 - c. If an article is placed before each of the two nouns in the Subject, it means that there are two different persons, and therefore, the Verb will be in plural. Also, when the subject has two different persons connected with ‘and’, the Verb must be Plural. ‘The orator and the Statesman are dead.’
 - d. If two subjects refer to the same idea, the verb may be singular. ‘Slow and steady wins the race.’ ‘The long and the short of the matter is this.’
 - e. When the subject is preceded by ‘every’ or ‘each’, or, nor, neither...nor, either, ‘with’, ‘in addition to’, ‘as well as’ the verb is singular. “Either he is mistaken or I am.” ‘Each of his sisters is clever.’ ‘The quality of mangoes was good.’ ‘Justice as well as mercy, allows it.’
 - f. However, when the subjects joined by or, nor, are different persons, the verb must be plural, and the Verb has to agree with the person placed nearest to the verb. ‘Rama or his brothers have done this.’

- g. A Collective Noun takes a singular verb when the collection is meant as one whole. It takes a Plural verb if each member or unit of the collection are to be treated separately. ‘The Parliament has elected its Speaker.’ ‘A number of interesting suggestions have been made.’
 - h. Some nouns that are plural in form but singular in meaning, take a singular Verb. ‘Mathematics is studied in every school.’ ‘The news is true.’
 - i. When the subject is a relative pronoun, the verb should agree to in number and in person. ‘I, who am your friend, will guard your interests.’ ‘She is one of the best mothers that have ever lived.’
8. **STRONG AND WEAK VERBS:** The principal parts of a verb are (a) The Present tense (b) The Past tense (c) The Past Participle. From these three all other parts of the Verb are formed.
- 8.1 Verbs form their Past Tense by adding, -ed, or d, or –t to the Present form. Such verbs are called Weak Verbs. ‘want = wanted; sell = sold ; spend = spent; teach = taught’ These are weak word because they need support of another letter to change their tense.
- 8.2 When Verbs form their Past Tense by changing one of the inner vowels , they are called Strong Verbs, because they are able to change their tense without additional letters. Come= came; see = saw; speak = spoke; write = wrote; know= knew.
9. **AUXILIARY VERBS:** An auxiliary is a verb that is used to form the Tense, the Mood, Voices etc., of other Verbs. Examples: ‘be = will be, would be; have = must have; do = ought to do; can, could = used; may, might = need; shall, should = dare’.
- 9.1 Auxiliary verbs are also called Special Verbs, as they are anomalous and are the only verbs that can make Question form, and can combine with negative , ‘not’ to form “n’t” forms such as ‘isn’t; can’t ; Isn’t it? , Can’t you? ; haven’t you? ; mustn’t ; and thereby stand for the whole verbal group in appended statements .

- 9.2 Uses of Auxiliary verbs a) 'be': in the formation of continuous tense, to denote command, form the passive voice; Mother says you are to go to the market at once.' 'The gate was open.'
- 9.3 'Have' is used to indicate obligation. 'I have to be there by five o'clock.'
- 9.4 'Do' emphasises the affirmative nature of the request or action. 'Do keep quiet.' 'Do you know him? Yes, I do.'
- 9.5 Can, could = expresses ability, or asks a question; 'cannot' denotes impossibility ; may = request for seeking permission , might : expresses possibility; may not denotes improbability.
- 9.6(a) Pure future is expressed by 'shall' used in first person (I shall be twenty-five next birthday) . (b) When it is used in second or third person, it expresses command, or a threat, or makes a promise, seek permission. He shall not enter my house again. (Command) You shall be punished for this. (Threat) You shall have a holiday tomorrow (Promise). Shall I serve you coffee now? (permission). (c) expresses duty or obligation: You should keep your promise. We should obey the traffic laws. (d) to express supposition: If it should rain tomorrow, they will not come . (e) Polite form of expressing want: I would like to help her. (f) probability: He should be in the library by now.
- 9.7 'Will' is used (a) to express willingness – 'I will try to do better next time' . (b) habit (c) assumption or probability: ' That will be the postman , I think.'
- 9.8 'Must' and 'Ought' express strong probability, fixed determination, moral obligation,.
- 9.9 'Used (to)' expresses discontinued habit.
- 9.10 'Need (to)' denotes necessity and obligation. Need I write to him? I need hardly take his help. With 'do' it is commonly used as a question. Do you need to go now? One needs to be careful.

