

01. Rohan thinks that he is a great poet.

In the above sentence 01, the Verb 'thinks' has a Subject and is limited by the Number and Person of its Subject, namely Rohan. Verbs which are, thus, limited by person and Number are called Finite Verbs. In fact, all Verbs in the Indicative, Imperative and Subjunctive Moods are Finite, because they have subjects and are limited by the Person and Number of their Subjects.

02. I wish to learn Latin.

In sentence 02, 'wish' is Finite because it has a Subject, and is limited by the Person and Number of its Subject, namely 'I'. But 'to learn' has no Subject and is not limited by person and Number. It is used without any change, whatever be the Subject of the sentence — 'you wish to learn', 'He wishes to learn', 'They wish to learn', etc. It is, therefore, described as a non-Finite Verb, and its specific name is Infinitive.

There are three groups of non-finites:

① The Infinitive

To learn, to write, to speak, to break.  
(Present Infinitive)

To have learned / To have learnt  
To have written, to have spoken,  
to have broken.

② The Participle

Learning, Writing, Speaking, breaking  
(Present Participle)  
learned / learnt, written, spoken, broken.  
(Past Participle) P.T.O.

03. The Gerund or Verbal Noun

Learning, writing, speaking, breaking.