



## FINITE VERBS

Like other verbs, **finite verbs** function in a sentence to describe the action of a person, place, or thing. Finite verbs have subjects and indicate three things: 1) person, 2) number, and 3) grammatical tense. In other words, their form changes when there is a change in the number or person of the subject, or when there is a different tense.

Always remember finite verb forms show 1) person, 2) number and 3) tense, as is evident here in *you go*, *he goes*, and *we went*.

Here are some other examples of finite verbs:

The quarterback scored a touchdown.  
We went to the beach yesterday.  
I go to school on Tuesdays and Thursdays.  
The cats played with the toys we gave them.  
The boy ate all of the ice cream.

Sometimes, this include the negation (not), as in *are not*, *could not*, or *does not*:

Aren't you hungry this morning?  
She couldn't get a ticket for the ballet performance.  
This train does not go to Edinburgh.

### **Finite and Non-Finite Verbs Together**

Finite verbs do not require another verb in the sentence to be grammatically correct. However, sometimes they work together with **non-finite verbs**, which do not change their form when the number or person of the subject changes. They stay consistent, regardless of tense, person, or number. We cover these in

another section ([non-finite verbs in English](#)), but here are some examples where finite and non-finite verbs are combined in one sentence.

My cousin wants to be a doctor when she grows up.

- Finite verb: wants; non-finite verb: to be

Your job is to count all of the missing pieces of the puzzle.

- Finite verb: is; non-finite verb: to count

John worked hard to pass his entrance examination.

- Finite verb: worked; non-finite verb: to pass

