



NDA/NA ENGLISH MASTERY SERIES

MODULE 15

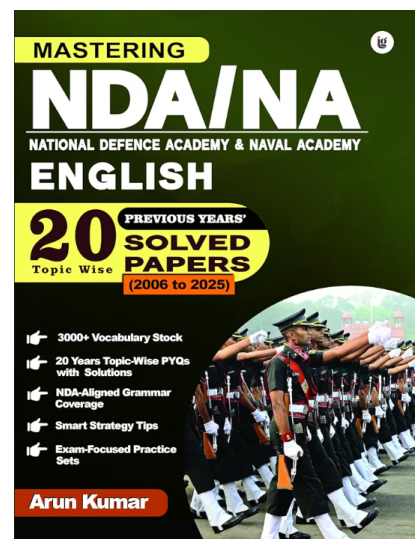
Conditionals, Infinitives & Gerunds

Compact revision of conditionals, infinitives and gerunds.

From the book

MASTERING NDA/NA ENGLISH

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CONDITIONALS, INFINITIVES & GERUNDS

CONDITIONAL CLAUSES

Conditional sentences express a **condition** and its result. They are very common in English grammar and are directly linked to subject–verb agreement because the verb forms in both the *if-clause* and the *main clause* change depending on whether the condition is real, unlikely, or impossible.

➤ Structure of Conditional Sentences

- If-clause (condition): Tells us the situation or requirement.
- Main clause (result): Tells us what will/would/might happen if that condition is true.

Example:

If you study hard, you will pass the exam.

(Condition: *you study hard* → Result: *you will pass*.)

The choice of tense in both clauses depends on the type of condition being expressed.

➤ Types of Conditional Sentences

1. Zero Conditional

Use

The Zero Conditional is used to express universal truths, scientific facts, natural laws, habits, and situations where the result always follows the condition. The condition is always true whenever it occurs.

Structure

If + Present Simple, Present Simple

Examples

- If you heat water to 100°C, it boils.
- If ice melts, it turns into water.
- If you press this button, the machine starts.

Remember: Both clauses are in the **Simple Present Tense**.

2. First Conditional

Use

The First Conditional is used to talk about real or possible situations in the present or future. It shows that if the condition happens, the result is likely to happen.

Structure

If + Present Simple, will/shall + Base Verb

(Other modal verbs such as **can, may, might** may also be used.)

Examples

- If you study hard, you will pass the examination.
- If it rains tomorrow, we will stay indoors.
- If she comes early, we will start the meeting.

Remember: Do not use will after if.

3. Second Conditional

Use

The Second Conditional is used to describe imaginary, unreal, or unlikely situations in the present or future. It is also used for giving advice, expressing wishes, and talking about dreams or hypothetical situations.

Structure

If + Past Simple, would/could/might + Base Verb

Examples

- If I were rich, I would travel around the world.
- If she knew the answer, she could help us.
- If he were more careful, he might avoid accidents.
- If I had more time, I would learn French.

4. Third Conditional

Use

The Third Conditional is used to talk about an unreal or impossible situation in the past. It imagines a different past result and is often used to express regret, criticism, or missed opportunities.

Structure

If + had + Past Participle (V³), would/could/might

have + Past Participle (V³)

Examples

- If she had studied harder, she would have passed.
- If they had left earlier, they could have caught the train.
- If you had told me, I would have helped you.
- If he had driven carefully, he might have avoided the accident.

Remember: The past cannot be changed; therefore, the condition is impossible.

5. Mixed Conditional

Use

The Mixed Conditional is used when the condition and the result belong to different times. It usually shows how a past action affects the present or how a present situation explains a past event.

(A) Past Condition → Present Result

I CONDITIONALS, INFINITIVES & GERUNDS I

Structure:

If + had + V³, would + Base Verb

Examples

- If I had studied harder, I would have a better job now.
- If she had taken the medicine, she would be healthy today.

(B) Present Condition → Past Result

Structure:

If + Past Simple, would have + V³

Examples

- If I were taller, I would have joined the Army.
- If he were more responsible, he would have completed the project.

Special Usage: As if / As though

These expressions describe unreal or imaginary situations.

Unreal Present

Structure: as if / as though + Past Simple

Examples

- He talks as if he knew everything.
- She behaves as though she owned the company.

Unreal Past

Structure: as if / as though + Past Perfect

Examples

- She looked as though she had seen a ghost.
- He spoke as if he had met the Prime Minister.

THE INFINITIVE (TO + V₁)

An infinitive is the base form of a verb, usually preceded by *to*. It can function as a noun, adjective, or adverb in a sentence.

Examples: *to sing, to play, to help, to travel*

- As a noun: *To read is my favorite hobby.*
- As an adjective: *I have a book to finish.*
- As an adverb: *She came here to study.*

➤ Rules of the Infinitive

Rule 1. After **But** and **Except**

When *but* or *except* is used as a *preposition*, the infinitive appears *without to*.

Example:

- The child did nothing but cry.
- We had no choice except accept the offer.
- She could do nothing but wait for the results.
- They had no option except leave the room quietly.

Rule 2. Negative Sentences with **Dare** and **Need**

In negative sentences, the verbs *dare not* and *need not* are followed by the bare infinitive (without *to*).

In affirmative or interrogative sentences, *to* is used.

Example:

- You dare not question the teacher. ✓
- You dare not to question the teacher. ✗
- How dare you to misbehave with elders? ✓
- We need not wait any longer. ✓

Rule 3. Use of Single or Double **To**

- If two similar actions are expressed, *to* is used only once.
- If two different actions are expressed, *to* is repeated.
- Ex: He promised to learn and improve. (*Similar actions* → *single to*)
- Ex: She decided to work and to study at the same time. (*Different actions* → *repeat to*)
- Ex: It's a joy to laugh and to cry with friends.

Rule 4. Certain Expressions without **To**

After expressions like *would rather, had rather, rather than, had better, as soon as*, the infinitive is used *without to*.

- I would rather stay at home today. ✓
- I would rather to stay at home today. ✗
- You had better complete your work on time. ✓

Rule 5. After Auxiliary Verbs

When an infinitive follows auxiliary verbs (*shall, will, can, may, must, should, did*), the *to* is omitted.

Exception: *ought* is always followed by *to*.

- Ex: She can solve the problem easily.
- Ex: You should follow the rules strictly.
- Ex: We ought to respect our elders.

Rule 6. Correct Use of Prepositions with Infinitives

When an infinitive qualifies a noun, the correct preposition must be included.

Leaving out the preposition makes the sentence incorrect.

- I have no pen to write with. ✓
Incorrect: I have no pen to write. ✗
- He has many problems to deal with. ✓
He has many problems to deal. ✗

THE GERUND (V₁ + ING)

A gerund is the -ing form of a verb used as a noun. It can act as the subject, object, or complement in a sentence.

- *She enjoys singing.* (Object)
- *His hobby is painting.* (Complement)

Examples:

- *Swimming is good for health.* (Subject)

➤ Rules of Gerund

Rule 1. Phrases Followed by a Gerund

Certain fixed expressions are always followed by a gerund.

Examples of such expressions: *accustomed to, fond of, tired of, given to, addicted to, object to, used to, looking forward to, worth, with a view to, owing to*

Example Sentences:

- I am used to waking up early in the morning.
- She is fond of painting landscapes.
- The problem is worth solving.
- He is looking forward to meeting his friends.

Rule 2. Verbs Always Followed by a Gerund

Certain verbs are always followed by a gerund, not an infinitive.

Common verbs: *avoid, dislike, enjoy, consider, admit, mind, deny, prevent, risk, stop*

Example Sentences:

- I enjoy reading in my free time.
- She avoided answering my question.
- He doesn't mind helping others.

- Stop wasting your time.

Rule 3. Gerund After Prepositions

When a verb comes immediately after a preposition, it must be in gerund form.

Example Sentences:

- She succeeded in passing the exam.
- He refrained from speaking during the meeting.
- They insisted on going to the park.

➤ Common prepositions followed by gerunds: *of, from, on, in, at, with, about, by, for, to, after, before*

Rule 4. Possessive Case Before Gerund

The noun or pronoun before a gerund should be in the possessive case to show ownership or relation.

- I am tired of his shouting during the class. ✓
- I am tired of him shouting during the class. ✗
- I like my friend's arriving on time. ✓
- I like my friend arriving on time. ✗