

10 Verbs and Verb Processes

Practice Run Describe the elements of the “verbal toolbox” of the verb forms in the sentences below. Are they finite or non-finite verb forms? With non-finite verb forms, say which elements of the “toolbox” are missing.

2. Daniel hasn't been seen around here for ages.	verb process		finite	
	person/number	3 rd sing	tense	present
	voice	passive	polarity	negative
	aspect	perfective (simple)	inversion	--
	mood	--	particles	--
3. Have you told them	verb process		finite	
	person/number	2 nd sing	tense	present
	voice	active	polarity	positive
	aspect	perfective simple	inversion	yes
	mood	--	particles	--
about having left the company?	verb process		non-finite	
	person/number	--	tense	-- (present?) ¹
	voice	active	polarity	positive
	aspect	perfective	inversion	--
	mood	--	particles	--
4. We must make an effort	verb process		finite	
	person/number	1 st pl	tense	present
	voice	active	polarity	positive
	aspect	simple	inversion	--
	mood	obligation	particles	--
to see them more often.	verb process		non-finite	
	person/number	--	tense	present (?)
	voice	active	polarity	positive
	aspect	--	inversion	--
	mood	--	particles	--
5. Peter hasn't always been able to speak his mind.	verb process		finite	
	person/number	3 rd sing	tense	present
	voice	active	polarity	negative
	aspect	perfective simple	inversion	--
	mood	ability	particles	--

¹ depending on whether the emphasis is on leaving the firm is focused on as a present fact or as having occurred earlier than the “telling”.

6. I would like to inform the committee	verb process		finite	
	person/number	1 st sing	tense	present
	voice	active	polarity	positive
	aspect	simple	inversion	--
	mood	wish	particles	--
of my family backing me up on this issue.	verb process		non-finite	
	person/number	implied 3 rd pl	tense	present (?)
	voice	active	polarity	positive
	aspect	--	inversion	--
	mood	--	particles	up
7. Will you all shut up for a moment!	verb process		finite	
	person/number	2 nd pl	tense	present
	voice	active	polarity	positive
	aspect	simple	inversion	yes
	mood	volition	particles	up
8. She hasn't managed to come to terms with losing the election.	verb process		finite	
	person/number	3 rd sing	tense	present
	voice	active	polarity	negative
	aspect	perfective simple	inversion	--
	mood	ability	particles	--
9. He had created a system	verb process		finite	
	person/number	3 rd sing	tense	past
	voice	active	polarity	positive
	aspect	perfective simple	inversion	--
	mood	--	particles	--
that only a genius could possibly get into .	verb process		finite	
	person/number	3 rd sing	tense	past
	voice	active	polarity	positive
	aspect	simple	inversion	--
	mood	ability	particles	into
10. Never had they seen such a wonderful show.	verb process		finite	
	person/number	3 rd pl	tense	past
	voice	active	polarity	positive
	aspect	perfective / simple	inversion	yes
	mood	--	particles	--
11. Wasn't it possible to call in on her on the way home?	verb process		finite	
	person/number	3 rd sing	tense	past
	voice	active	polarity	negative
	aspect	simple	inversion	yes
	mood	possibility	particles	in