

Gerund, Participle, Or Infinitive?

Definition: A verbal is a verb form used as another part of speech.

There are 3 types of verbals: Gerunds, Participles, and Infinitives. We are going to take each of these separately in these worksheets. We are also going to have sheets for both recognizing the verbal by itself and then as a verbal phrase. This worksheet is just on recognizing gerunds.

Gerund: a verb form ending in -ing (present participle) used as a noun. Thus it can be in the position of subject, direct object, object of the preposition, or predicate noun.

Examples:

Subject - Reading is my favorite activity.

Direct Object - I enjoy reading.

Object of the Preposition - Rainy days are good days for reading.

Predicate Noun - My favorite subject is reading.

Remember this: A word ending in -ing can be either a verb, a participle or a gerund. To determine which one it is, you must determine how it is used in the sentence. Do these steps:

- 1) Find the simple subject and simple predicate.
- 2) If the -ing form of the verb is not part of the simple predicate (verb), then determine how it is used in the sentence. Is it in a noun position? Then it is a gerund. If it is used as an adjective, then it will be a participle.

Example:

Bill and Tony are running.

Are running is the verb in this sentence.

Bill and Tony enjoy running.

Running is a gerund, a direct object of the action verb, enjoy.

The running water overflowed.

Running is a participle (adjective) modifying the noun, water.

Now it is your turn to find the gerunds. Look for the verb form ending in -ing. Then decide how that form is used. If it is used as a noun, then it is a gerund.

Exercise Directions: Write down the -ing word in each sentence. After it, tell how it is being used in the sentence: gerund (subject, direct object, predicate noun, or object of the preposition), participle (adjective), infinitive, or verb phrase. Remember that any part of speech can be compound, meaning that there can be two or more.

1. Helen enjoys sketching children.
2. Swimming is good exercise.
3. Elaine and Rita are singing in the chorus tonight.
4. Of all my interests, I care most about swimming.
5. Traveling gives one a chance to see many wonderful sights.
6. A good hobby for boys can be fishing or painting.
7. Few things are better for relaxing than a satisfying hobby.
(CAREFUL - there is only one gerund in this sentence!)
8. Many people find that they can beat stress by walking.

9. A good hobby and exercise can be skating.
10. Visiting our relatives in a pleasant activity.

Gerunds and Infinitives Exercises

Put the bracketed verb into the appropriate gerund or infinitive form and identify which type.

Ex. (tell) They hesitated to tell her because they were afraid.
(smoke) She quit smoking.

1. (kick) Stop _____ the ball into the river.
2. (fall) The rain kept _____ last night.
3. (pick) I must go to the pharmacy _____ up your prescription.
4. (have) I am _____ my birthday party this Saturday.
5. (watch) Do you like _____ wrestling on T.V?
6. (date) Are you _____ that boy?
7. (stand) No one is allowed _____ up on this ride.
8. (call) She is _____ out your name.
9. (make) Would you like _____ a cake with me?
10. (run) She enjoys _____ to school.
11. (write) No _____ on the desks please.
12. (sing) Would you like _____ with the choir this year?

Identifying Gerunds, Participles and Infinitives

Directions: Read each of the following sentences to determine whether the sentence contains a gerund, participle, or infinitive. At the left of the number, write G, P, or I.

- 1) Facing college standards, the students realized that they hadn't worked hard enough in high school.
- 2) Swimming in your pool is always fun.
- 3) The college recommends sending applications early.
- 4) Mrs. Sears showing more bravery than wisdom invited thirty boys and girls to a party.
- 5) To be great is to be true to yourself and to the highest principles of honor.
- 6) He won the game by scoring during the overtime period.
- 7) Jim is expected to program computers at his new job.
- 8) Her most important achievement was winning the national championship.
- 9) Going to work today took all my energy.
- 10) The student left in charge of the class was unable to keep order.
- 11) The president wants to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.
- 12) Fighting for a losing cause made them depressed.
- 13) Getting up at five, we got an early start.
- 14) Telling your father was a mistake.
- 15) The crying boy angered by the bully began to fight.
- 16) Applicants must investigate various colleges learning as much as possible about them before applying for admission.
- 17) Statistics reported by the National Education Association revealed that seventy percent of American colleges offer remedial English classes emphasizing composition.

- 18) Gathering my courage, I asked for a temporary loan.
- 19) Starting out as an army officer Karen's father was frequently transferred.
- 20) To fight against those odds would be ridiculous.