

For each of the following sentences, underline the verbal and then identify whether it is a gerund, infinitive, or participle (present or past).

IDENTIFYING VERBALS

I love my mother's cooking; it is simply divine.

Gerund

- 1) People see psychiatrists because they need to talk about their issues.
- 2) Shaken by the events, Tony was taken home.
- 3) Studying will help improve your grades.
- 4) Sophie agreed to meet with me, but then she never showed up.
- 5) Give this to your mother; she loves reading.
- 6) Talking on the phone, the man never saw the thief steal his briefcase.
- 7) Yesterday, while going to church, Phil offered to paint the house.
- 8) The boys, excited and full of energy, clambered over the log.
- 9) Although they tried, they couldn't solve the puzzling mystery.
- 10) Beth's husband loves to hike to the hut on the top of the mountain.
- 11) They were presented with the menu; choosing was difficult.
- 12) One morning, inspired and excited, he began painting.
- 13) My uncle was a noisy eater; his chewing always irritated me.
- 14) It is important for her to practice every single day.
- 15) They heard somebody shouting, so they ran for help.
- 16) Growing large with pregnancy, Gwyneth struggled to move.
- 17) He insisted that she buy a new dress to wear for their date.
- 18) Torn by the decision, Antonia left the choice up to Sam.
- 19) I felt nauseous after experiencing her terrible driving.
- 20) The girls practiced walking with books on their heads.
- 21) The concerned doctor immediately prescribed medication.
- 22) Senator Holby decided to run for president this year.
- 23) The sound of breaking glass reached our ears; it alarmed us.
- 24) Tim searched desperately for the saved file on his computer.
- 25) The children were encouraged to laugh at themselves.

VERBALS

WORDS ENDING WITH -ING

Many words end with **-ing** (sitting, watching crying, etc.) However, sometimes these words are GERUNDS (nouns) and other times they function as PARTICIPLES (adjectives).



For each of the following sentences, identify whether the words ending in *-ing* are gerunds or participles.

		Gerund	Participle
E.g	The ghastly painting hung on the wall above his bed.	✓	
1	Grabbing his coat, Tim hastily pursued the suspect.		
2	My mother, knowing that I am not perfect, loves me.		
3	For stage actors, rehearsing is an essential part of their craft.		
4	The changing of the guards takes place at Buckingham Palace every day.		
5	My new stepmother loves spending my dad's money; she does it liberally.		
6	Whispering at the back of the room, the girls never heard the teacher's instructions.		
7	New studies have shown that smiling has been proven to reduce stress.		
8	James threw the boring book aside and turned to his computer.		
9	The students loved their new English teacher; they found her to be really interesting.		
10	Sue couldn't concentrate; she had been kept awake all night by her neighbor's barking dogs.		
11	Traveling is a great way to find yourself and become a more informed person.		
12	Knowing that he'd say no, Jo still went to his teacher and asked for an extension on his essay.		
13	Matthew refused to participate in the voting, as he knew it was a corrupt process.		
14	Unfortunately, Ken's family did not appreciate his incessant singing.		
15	Smiling, she explained the exciting plan to the audience.		

Read the passage below and then circle the GERUNDS and underline the PARTICIPLES which are functioning as adjectives.

Stepping hesitantly, Stephen walked across the garden towards the house. Everything within him wanted to run in the opposite direction, but he clenched his trembling hands and pushed on. The grass was overgrown and it was clear that the gardening had not been done for quite some time. That should have been his first clue, yet his nerves were clouding his judgment.

Finally, he made it to the door. Bringing his hand up to the bell, he paused. It had been almost six years since he had entered this house and he knew that he wouldn't be welcomed with open arms. How he had left it so long, Stephen didn't know. It was true that he wasn't good at communicating, but surely the blame didn't lie entirely with him.

Anxiously, he pressed the doorbell. The chilling tones of the bell sounded threatening to his ears and Stephen braced himself for the response. But none came. He tried again. Still, only silence was returned.

Then Stephen realized that his worrying had been for nothing: nobody was even home.

VERBALS

PARTICIPLES & GERUNDS

All *-ing* words can be nouns (gerunds) or adjectives (participles).
For each of the words below, you must write two sentences, displaying the two different uses.

Here's the word
you must use

CRYING

GERUND: Crying is pointless; it doesn't solve anything.

PARTICIPLE: It was impossible to calm the crying baby.

SMOKING

GERUND: _____

PARTICIPLE: _____

DANCING

GERUND: _____

PARTICIPLE: _____

FISHING

GERUND: _____

PARTICIPLE: _____

READING

GERUND: _____

PARTICIPLE: _____

SITTING

GERUND: _____

PARTICIPLE: _____

SINGING

GERUND: _____

PARTICIPLE: _____

DRIVING

GERUND: _____

PARTICIPLE: _____

PLAYING

GERUND: _____

PARTICIPLE: _____

LYING

GERUND: _____

PARTICIPLE: _____

RUNNING

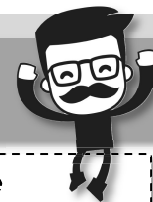
GERUND: _____

PARTICIPLE: _____

TEACHING

GERUND: _____

PARTICIPLE: _____



When we use participles as adjectives in participle phrases, we need to make sure that the participle phrase clearly relates to the subject it is describing. If it is ambiguous, we may have a case of a **dangling participle**.

For Example:

Flying south for the winter, I saw a flock of birds.

→ This is the participle phrase, but who was flying south? The speaker or the birds?
Can you see that it is ambiguous? It is a dangling (or misplaced) participle.



Whenever we start a sentence with a participle phrase, the subject being described by the participle must immediately follow.

Eating his lunch, Tony thought of me.

✓ The subject comes immediately after the phrase.

Rewrite each of the following sentences to get rid of any dangling participles.

- 1 Baked, not fried, Tom likes his potatoes.

- 2 Eating her peanut butter sandwich, the bird attacked Mary.

- 3 Shocked by the news, the glass fell from my hand.

- 4 Covered with a thick layer of frosting, I enjoyed the cake.

- 5 Shouting about the exam results, the students were silent.

- 6 Walking on the hot road, the puddles were a relief.

- 7 Having eaten my food, the waitress brought the dessert menu.

- 8 After soaking in syrup, my mother ate the cherries.

- 9 Waiting for the bus, time seemed to stand still.

- 10 Leaking onto the floor, Suzan watched the overflowing syrup.



→ FOCUSING ON INFINITIVES

For each of the following sentences, underline the infinitive and then identify whether it is functioning as a noun, adjective or adverb.

Since he was a child, Ethan wanted to drive.

Noun

- 1) He was the first man to fly over the Atlantic. - _____
- 2) Kim knew one thing: she needed to sing. - _____
- 3) The teacher wanted the students to listen carefully to her instructions. - _____
- 4) I want to play computer games with my brother this afternoon. - _____
- 5) Bob announced that it was time to work on getting better. - _____
- 6) The students were eager to learn about Martin Luther King Jr. - _____
- 7) To empathize is a valuable and necessary virtue in life. - _____
- 8) They decided that they would like to meet. - _____
- 9) I take the bus to get to work on time. - _____
- 10) After years of trying, Adele has finally learned to dance. - _____
- 11) Her favorite activity is to watch movies at the theater. - _____
- 12) At 7 o'clock, my mother came to wake me. - _____
- 13) It was clear to the teacher that none of the students wanted to learn. - _____
- 14) Her hair was like rats' tails; she desperately needed someone to cut it. - _____
- 15) I went to university because of my desire to learn. - _____
- 16) To Joe, it seemed that to run would be foolish. - _____
- 17) My sister has gone to play tennis with our father. - _____
- 18) My brother hates to lose when we play games. - _____
- 19) My mother told me to follow my heart when it comes to career choices. - _____
- 20) To hear her sing is a real privilege. - _____
- 21) His enthusiasm to learn was clearly evident to those around him. - _____
- 22) John paused to think about how he should answer the question. - _____
- 23) My aunt wrote to the lawyers, asking them to review the case. - _____
- 24) It is clear: the key to success is to try. - _____
- 25) As clever as Jim was, he couldn't find a way to fix the problem. - _____