



## ANSWER KEY

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

For Example:

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

The following are just examples of possible answers. Students may have rearranged the sentences slightly differently. However, it is important

that students have eradicated the dangling participles and cleared up any ambiguity.

Whenever we start a sentence with a participle phrase, the subject 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.  
Tom likes his potatoes baked, not fried.
- 2 Eating her peanut butter sandwich, the bird attacked Mary.  
Eating her peanut butter sandwich, Mary was attacked by the bird.
- 3 Shocked by the news, the glass fell from my hand.  
Shocked by the news, I dropped the glass.
- 4 Covered with a thick layer of frosting, I enjoyed the cake.  
I enjoyed the cake, which was covered with a thick layer of frosting.
- 5 Shouting about the exam results, the students were silent.  
As the teacher was shouting about the exam results, the students were silent.
- 6 Walking on the hot road, the puddles were a relief.  
The puddles were a relief as I was walking on the hot road.
- 7 Having eaten my food, the waitress brought the dessert menu.  
Having eaten my food, I was brought a dessert menu by the waitress.
- 8 After soaking in syrup, my mother ate the cherries.  
My mother ate the cherries after they had been soaking in syrup.
- 9 Waiting for the bus, time seemed to stand still.  
Time seemed to stand still as I was waiting for the bus.
- 10 Leaking onto the floor, Suzan watched the overflowing syrup.  
Suzan watched the overflowing syrup leaking onto the floor.



# ANSWER KEY FOCUSING ON INFINITIVES

NOTE: For the adverbs and adjectives, the words they modify have been highlighted for clarification (the activity didn't require this).

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. direct object
- 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 subject is a valuable and necessary virtue in life.
- 8) They decided that they would like to meet. direct object
- 9) I take the bus to get to work on time.
- 10) After years of trying, Adele has finally learned to dance. direct object
- 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. direct object
- 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 subject would be foolish.
- 17) My sister has gone to play tennis with our father.
- 18) My brother hates to lose direct object when we play games.
- 19) My mother told me to follow my heart when it comes to career choices.
- 20) To hear subject 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. direct object
- 25) As clever as Jim was, he couldn't find a way to fix the problem.

Adjective

Noun

Adverb

Noun

Adjective

Adverb

Noun

Noun

Adverb

Noun

Noun

Adverb

Noun

Adjective

Adjective

Noun

Adverb

Noun

Adverb

Noun

Adjective

Adverb

Adverb

Noun

Adjective

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

# ANSWER KEY

# 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.

Infinitive

Past Participle

Gerund

Infinitive

Gerund

Present Participle

Infinitive

Past Participle

Present Participle

Infinitive

Gerund

Past Participle

Gerund

Infinitive

Present Participle

Infinitive

Infinitive

Past Participle

Gerund

Gerund

Past Participle

Infinitive

Present Participle

Past Participle

Infinitive

# VERBAL ANSWER KEY WORDS ENDING WITH -ING

Many words end in -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

### ANSWER KEY

All *-ing* words can be nouns (gerunds) or adjectives (participles).

The following are just examples of possible answers. As this is a writing activity, students will have other answers. It is important that students use the words as nouns and adjectives, not as multipart verbs.

you must use

CRY

PARTICIPLE: It was impossible to calm the crying baby.

SMOKING

GERUND: Smoking is a disgusting habit.

PARTICIPLE: The smoking embers glowed all night.

DANCING

GERUND: The dancing in the production was simply wonderful.

PARTICIPLE: The children, dancing and laughing, were so adorable.

FISHING

GERUND: My grandfather loves fishing more than anyone I know.

PARTICIPLE: The women have gone on a fishing expedition.

READING

GERUND: The little boy's reading was really improving with practice.

PARTICIPLE: Reading under the covers, Tom damaged his eyesight.

SITTING

GERUND: We ate dinner at the first sitting.

PARTICIPLE: Sitting at the back of the room, she couldn't hear the teacher.

SINGING

GERUND: Studies have shown that singing releases endorphins.

PARTICIPLE: She was irritated by the singing, dancing toy.

DRIVING

GERUND: I can't cope with his driving; it makes me nauseous.

PARTICIPLE: The driving principle of the project was efficiency.

PLAYING

GERUND: Playing with dolls is acceptable for both boys and girls.

PARTICIPLE: Playing with his sister, Jo was truly happy.

LYING

GERUND: Lying is never acceptable.

PARTICIPLE: The lying politicians were brought to account by the committee.

RUNNING

GERUND: Running is excellent for cardio but bad for your knees.

PARTICIPLE: Please go down to the running track.

TEACHING

GERUND: Her one passion in life is teaching.

PARTICIPLE: He handed her the teaching materials.