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Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Gerund, Participle, Or Infinitive?** *(Courtesy Chardon Middle School, Ohio)*

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 the following worksheets.

**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 part of a ***verb phrase***, 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 (usually, ***before*** the main verb)?  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 phrase** in this sentence, because it tells what the subjects, Bill and Tony, are doing.

**Bill and Tony enjoy running.**  
     Running is a **gerund**, a direct object of the action verb, enjoy. Note that *running* follows the action word, or verb, *enjoy.*

**The running water overflowed.**  
 Running is a **participle** (adjective) modifying the noun, water. Note that *running* comes before the noun *water.*

# **Participles:**

* First and foremost, a participle is the form of a verb, but it is not a verb.
* Second, it is an adjective.
* And finally, it ends in "ing" or "ed" or "en."

In the following example, the participle is **bold** and the verb is underlined.

* As the colonies became a new nation **dedicated** to the proposition that all men are created equal, public schools had another purpose.

### The steps to finding a participle:

**1. Find the subject and verb to eliminate any confusion.**

**2. Decide what part of the sentence the verbal belongs to.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **-ing word** | **How used? Gerund, participle, or verb phrase?** |
| 1 | **sketching** |  |
| 2 |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |
| 5 |  |  |
| 6 |  |  |
| 7 |  |  |
| 8 |  |  |
| 9 |  |  |
| 10 |  |  |

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.

**INFINITIVES:**

* First and foremost, an infinitive is the ***form*** of the verb, but it is not a verb.
* Second, an infinitive can be a noun, an adjective or an adverb.
* And finally, it is **always** "to" plus a verb.

[In the following example, the infinitive is **bold** and the verb is underlined.]

Subject

Common, concrete, plural noun

Main verb

Main verb

* Supporters of the Internet fail **to mention** that it contains a lot of trash packaged to look like reliable information.

Infinitive

Infinitive

The subject is SUPPORTERS. The verb is FAIL. The infinitive TO MENTION is the object of the verb.

* Please note that not all phrases that start with the word ‘to’ are infinitives

**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. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**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. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(For the following 5 questions, ***you*** must underline and define the possible gerund, participle, or infinitive.)

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. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_