

Gerund phrase

A phrase that includes the gerund and all the words and phrases that are related to the gerund.

A **gerund phrase** is a gerund plus any adjective, adverb, prepositional phrase, or complement it may have.

Because a gerund acts like a noun in a sentence, it may have an adjective that describes it.

EXAMPLE

Adj. Gerund

I get in trouble for **loud talking**.

(What kind of *talking*? *loud*. The gerund phrase is the object of the preposition *for*.)

A gerund may also have an adverb or adverb phrase.

EXAMPLE

Gerund

Adv. Phrase

Rob likes **running in the morning**.

(When does Rob like *running*? *in the morning*. *In the morning* is a prepositional phrase used as an adverb. The entire gerund phrase is the direct object of the action verb *like*.)

Because a gerund is a verb form, it may have complements.

EXAMPLE

Gerund

D.O.

Riding a bicycle is fun.

(*Bicycle* is the direct object of the gerund *riding*. The gerund phrase is the subject of the verb *is*.)

Activity B Write the gerund phrase in each of these sentences on your paper. Beside it, write whether the gerund phrase acts as a *subject*, *direct object*, *predicate nominative*, *object of a preposition*, or an *appositive* in the sentence.

Example Getting ready for school is the hardest part of my day.
Getting ready for school—subject

- 1) Yori watched the running of the Boston Marathon on television.
- 2) One of his dreams was winning that race.
- 3) When he was very young, he began thinking about entering a marathon some day.
- 4) Yori enjoys two things: running and winning!

Don't confuse progressive verb forms with gerunds.

EXAMPLES

Verb phrase: Yori **has been running** every day.

Gerund: Yori likes **running** every day.

Activity C Write sentences on your paper for each of these verb phrases and gerunds. Be sure to use each one correctly.

Verb Phrases

Gerunds

1) will be starting

6) being

2) is beginning

7) finding

3) were going

8) running

4) has been trying

9) wishing

5) are planning

10) singing

Lesson Review Write the gerund phrases in each of these sentences on your paper. Underline the gerund or gerunds in each gerund phrase.

Example My hobby is collecting stamps.
collecting stamps

- 1) Flying an airplane must be a thrill.
- 2) Reading books is a way to relax.
- 3) We enjoyed swimming in the lake.
- 4) An architect earns a salary by designing buildings.
- 5) My dog always gets in trouble for chasing cats.
- 6) The singing and dancing were good in that play.
- 7) I like cooking, but not cleaning up.
- 8) Finding anything in that messy room must be hard.
- 9) Locating a needle in a haystack seems impossible.
- 10) A farmer earns money by growing and selling food.
- 11) Knowing you has been my pleasure.
- 12) Some people enjoy weeding their gardens.
- 13) Planning our vacation was fun.
- 14) His favorite sport is fishing for trout.
- 15) Dana's hobby is reading.

Participle

A verb form that is used like an adjective.

A **participle** is another verb form. Participles are used in sentences as adjectives. A participle may be in the present tense or in the past tense.

EXAMPLES

Present tense: The **running** deer was beautiful.

Past tense: The house looks larger **painted** white.

He picked up the pieces of **broken** glass.

Activity A Write the participles in each of these sentences on your paper.

- 1) The setting sun turned the sky red and purple.
- 2) Those cooked carrots are mushy.
- 3) The girl reading that book is my sister.
- 4) Will you help that lost child find her mother?
- 5) My rumbling stomach told me I was hungry.
- 6) The cracked glass hid the details of the painting.
- 7) Steamed vegetables are good for you.
- 8) The hikers climbed over the fallen log.
- 9) What a frightening movie that was!
- 10) Fish jumped in the bubbling brook.

Do not confuse a participle used as an adjective with a participle that is part of a verb phrase.

EXAMPLES

Participle: The deer **running** through the woods was beautiful.

Verb phrase: The deer **was running** through the woods.

Activity B Write on your paper whether the words in bold in these sentences are participles used as *adjectives* or are part of the *verb phrase*.

Example The **barking** dog scared the child. **adjective**
The dog was **barking** at the child. **verb phrase**

- 1) Your cold is probably **catching**.
- 2) We will be **catching** the train.
- 3) The newly **painted** room was bright and cheery.
- 4) They have **painted** the room a bright yellow.
- 5) The wind was **howling** all night.
- 6) The **howling** wind kept us awake all night.

Participial phrase

A phrase that includes the participle and all the words and phrases related to it.

A **participial phrase** is a participle plus any words that complement or describe it. A participle comes right before or right after the noun or pronoun it describes.

EXAMPLE

Running at full speed, she caught the bus.
(The participial phrase *Running at full speed* describes *she*.)

Activity C Write these sentences on your paper. Underline each participial phrase. Draw a line to the noun or pronoun it describes.

- 1) Howling wildly, the wind frightened the child.
- 2) Dana lent her book to the girl sitting in the first row.
- 3) Expecting the worst, Julian was pleasantly surprised with his grade.
- 4) The keys locked inside the car were of little use.
- 5) Concentrating on her notes, Mrs. Agnello did not hear Julian enter the room.
- 6) Mr. Agnello has mailed the letter addressed to the bank.
- 7) Recommended by his teachers, Chan was given the award.
- 8) Dinner cooked by her sons was a special treat for Mrs. Agnello.

Activity D Write the participle used as an adjective or the participial phrase in each of these sentences on your paper. Underline the participle in each participial phrase. Then write the word that the participle or participial phrase describes.

Examples Running at full speed, the girl caught the bus.

Running at full speed—girl

The growling dog frightened the man and his son.
growling—dog

- 1) Walking to school, we passed a new apartment building.
- 2) Speaking in front of the class, Bobby got nervous.
- 3) Snacks are the only missing items in our backpacks.
- 4) The sleeping kittens looked adorable.
- 5) Swimming at the beach, we saw a shark.
- 6) Carol enjoyed the thumping sound of the music.
- 7) The book told a story about a sunken treasure.
- 8) Each of the patches on the hand-sewn quilt came from a piece of old clothing.
- 9) With his freshly scrubbed face, the boy looked younger.
- 10) Elena swept up the pieces of broken glass from the floor.
- 11) Trapped in an elevator, the girl cried out for help.
- 12) An adoring fan asked the rock star for her autograph.
- 13) The team, hoping for a victory, ran onto the field.
- 14) The skaters glided across the frozen lake.
- 15) I heard her chuckling softly to herself.

Lesson 3 Review

Part A Write the participle or the participial phrase in each of these sentences on your paper.

- 1) We could see the boy running around the track.
- 2) The man found his lost dog.
- 3) Rowing rapidly, we soon crossed the river.
- 4) The broken bike could not be fixed.
- 5) Standing on the corner, we watched the cars go by.
- 6) Arriving early, we were first in line for tickets.
- 7) We waved to the marching soldiers.
- 8) I wondered who the girl walking by the restaurant was.
- 9) Totally lost, Dad still would not stop to ask directions.
- 10) Waving its tail happily, the dog stood and waited for its dinner.

Part B Copy each of these sentences on your paper. Fill in the blank with a participle that makes sense in the sentence.

- 1) Denise handed out the _____ watermelon.
- 2) _____ to the hospital, we were almost in an accident.
- 3) I could not understand what the _____ note meant.
- 4) The woman _____ on the bench is my mother's friend Lily.
- 5) We had to throw away the _____ steak.

Chapter 14 Review

Part A Write the infinitive phrases in each of the sentences on your paper.

- 1) Julian went to the graduation to see Elena.
- 2) “I am a little bit sorry to leave good old Wilson High School,” said Barbara before graduation.
- 3) “It’s a good excuse to have a party,” Ella laughed.
- 4) We should find a place to meet.
- 5) “Let’s plan to do that after the ceremony,” Julian said.
- 6) Did you know that Sam wants to travel cross country this summer?
- 7) “To see Italy is my dream,” Val said.
- 8) My plan, after I finish college, is to work in Spain.
- 9) Let’s get together in ten years to talk about our accomplishments.
- 10) That sounds like fun to me, but I think we need to graduate from high school first.

Part B Write the gerund phrase in each of these sentences on your paper.

- 1) Planning a party is always fun for that group.
- 2) “I enjoy playing charades at a party,” Ella said.
- 3) For Elena, graduating from high school was a wonderful event.
- 4) After congratulating each other, Al and Billy looked for their parents.
- 5) Their actions—laughing and crying at the same time—showed that they had mixed emotions about graduation.

Part C Write the participle or participial phrase in each of these sentences on your paper.

- 1) Smiling from the stage, Sue received her diploma.
- 2) Roberto, walking across the stage, almost tripped.
- 3) With trembling voices, the graduates said good-bye to each other.
- 4) Someone handed a folded piece of paper to Elena.
- 5) She read the printed note and smiled.

Part D Write the verbal phrases in these sentences on your paper. Beside each one, write whether it is an *infinitive phrase*, a *gerund phrase*, or a *participial phrase*.

- 1) Standing in front of the school for a last look, the girls had tears in their eyes.
- 2) “Graduating from high school is something that you will always remember,” said Mrs. Castillo.
- 3) As they drove away, Sue turned to take one last look at her school.
- 4) Shutting her eyes, Sue knew that she would always remember the good friends that she had made.
- 5) They all met at Elena’s house to celebrate the graduation.
- 6) Elena had decided to invite all her friends.
- 7) Opening the door, she welcomed them all inside.
- 8) Everyone came in carrying food or soft drinks.
- 9) Barbara wanted everyone to sign her yearbook.
- 10) Looking around the room, Elena felt happy to see all her friends together.

Test Taking Tip

When taking a matching test, match all the items that you know go together for sure. Cross these items out. Then try to match the items that are left.