

Identifying Gerunds, Infinitives, and Participles

In English grammar, a verbal is a word that is formed from a verb but that functions as a different part of speech in a sentence. Gerunds, infinitives, and participles are three types of verbals.

A **gerund** is made from a verb in its -ing form. A gerund functions as a noun.

Reading is my favorite activity on a relaxing afternoon.

The gerund *reading* is the subject of the verb *is*.

An **infinitive** is made up of the word “to” and the base form of a verb. Infinitives can function as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs.

For everyone’s safety, guests must be at least 42 inches tall to ride.

The infinitive *to ride* functions as an adverb.



A **participle** often acts as an adjective in a sentence. Present participles end in -ing. Past participles often end in -ed, -d, -t, -en, or -n. Participles can modify nouns, noun phrases, or pronouns.

The volunteers felt proud when they saw the delighted smiles of the children.

The past participle *delighted* modifies the noun *smiles*.

Underline the verbal in each sentence. Then, write which type of verbal it is (gerund, infinitive, or participle) and circle whether it functions as a noun, adjective, or adverb in the sentence.

	Type of Verbal	Part of Speech
1. <u>Traveling</u> is a wonderful experience that can help people appreciate different cultures around the world.	<u>gerund</u>	(noun) adjective adverb
2. Antonio learned <u>to swim</u> when he spent the summer at his aunt and uncle’s lake house as a kid.	<u>infinitive</u>	(noun) adjective adverb
3. As the bright sun warmed the pavement, we quickly devoured our <u>melting</u> ice pops.	<u>participle</u>	noun (adjective) adverb
4. Chef Kabir’s favorite recipe <u>to cook</u> is his grandmother’s traditional chana masala.	<u>infinitive</u>	noun (adjective) adverb
5. Aria and Mya didn’t understand the fun of <u>skateboarding</u> until they tried it for themselves last weekend.	<u>gerund</u>	(noun) adjective adverb
6. The <u>enticing</u> aroma of warm sourdough wafted from the bakery into the street.	<u>participle</u>	noun (adjective) adverb
7. <u>To survive</u> , desert plants have developed unique adaptations that help them conserve water.	<u>infinitive</u>	noun adjective (adverb)
8. Eliana secretly fed the <u>overcooked</u> broccoli to the dog when her dad went back into the kitchen.	<u>participle</u>	noun (adjective) adverb
9. Since Jack is already an hour late, do you think we should continue <u>waiting</u> ?	<u>gerund</u>	(noun) adjective adverb
10. Taylor watched in horror as fragments of the <u>broken</u> vase scattered across the kitchen floor.	<u>participle</u>	noun (adjective) adverb