

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