Name & Surname: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Verbals at Work

Gerunds, participles, and infinitives in action

About 45 minutes Level ★★★☆☆



What Verbals Do

A **verbal** is a verb form that does not act as the main **verb**. It acts as a **noun**, an adjective, or an adverb.

- A **gerund** ends in -ing and acts as a noun. Example: Swimming builds strength. Swimming is the subject.
- A **participle** acts as an adjective. Present participles end in -ing. Past participles often end in -ed or -en. Example: Tired from practice, a teammate sat down.
- An **infinitive** is to plus the base verb and can act as a noun, adjective, or adverb. Example: The team wants to win.

Task A

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Read each writing goal. Recommend the best verbal type and justify your choice.

a gerund phrase as subject | a participial phrase as adjective | an infinitive phrase to show purpose

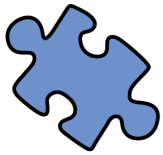
Person	Most suitable choice	Justification
a student who needs a noun for the subject about homework		....
a student who wants to describe a tired player after a game		....
a student who wants to explain the purpose of staying late		....

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Verbals at Work

Task B

Follow these steps to find and label the verbal.

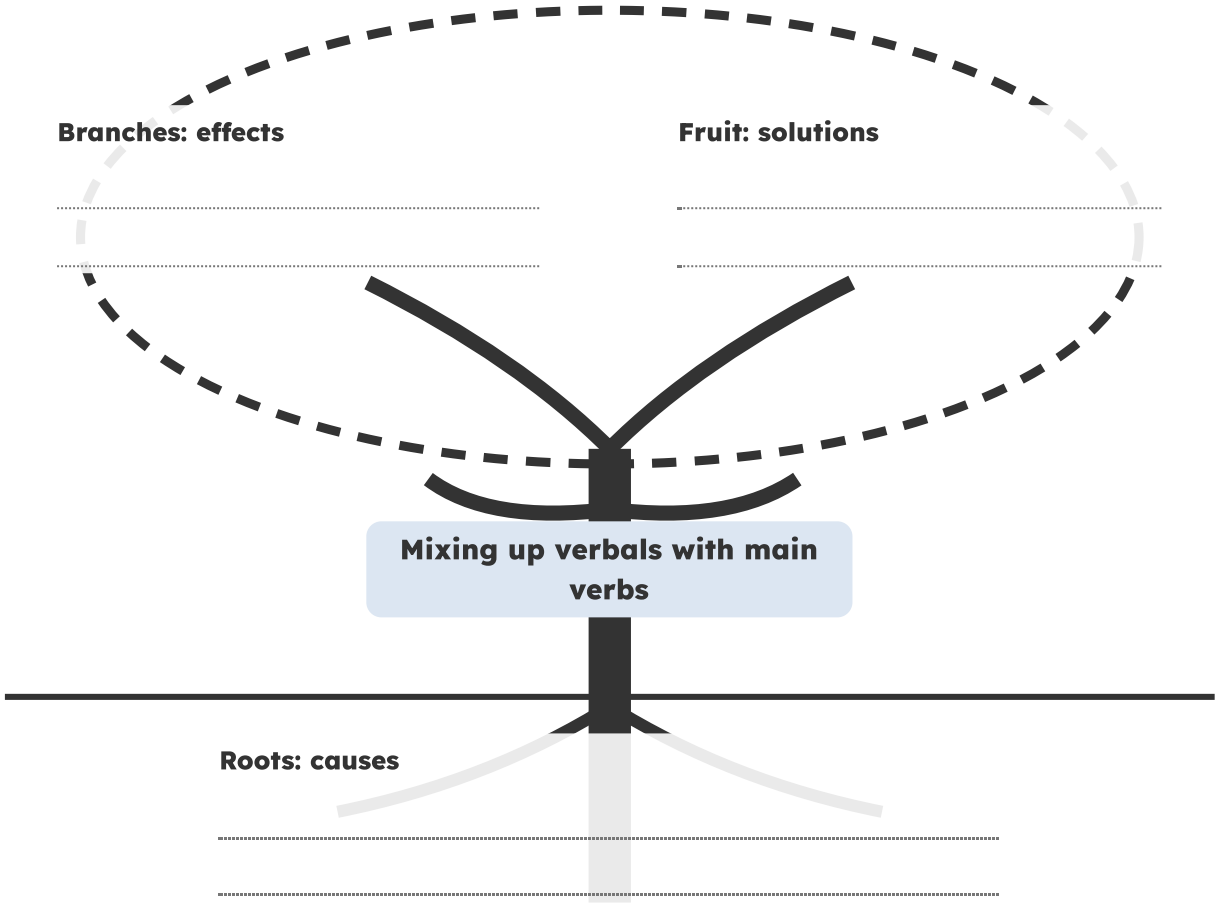
1. Find the -ing word or **to** phrase
2. Check if it is the main **verb**
3. Decide its **job** in the sentence
4. 

   Label it as **gerund**, participle, or infinitive
5. Explain its **function** with evidence

Verbals at Work

Task C

Complete the tree for this grammar problem with causes, effects, and solutions.



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Verbals at Work

Task D

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Read the report and answer the questions. Show the function of each verbal.

A 14-year-old on the school newspaper is editing a short sports report. The draft has three sentences: 1) **Running** every morning builds stamina. 2) **Tired** from practice, the team rested on the bench. 3) The team stayed late **to plan** the next game.

a. **Identify** the **verbal** in Sentence 1 and name its **type**. **(2)**

.....

.....

b. **Explain** the **function** of Tired from practice in Sentence 2. **(2)**

.....

.....

c. **Explain** the **function** of to plan in Sentence 3. **(2)**

.....

.....

(Total: 6 marks)

Task E

Give an example, then another, then one nobody else will think of. Explain how you know it fits.

Give an example of a gerund as a noun subject

An example

.....

Now another

.....

Now one nobody else will think of!

.....

How do you know they all fit?

.....

.....

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Verbals at Work

Task F

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Box the command, underline the topic, and plan your answer.

1. Box the command word **2. Underline** the topic **3. Count** the marks: how many points?
4. Plan, then write

Explain how the verbals function in these sentences: Swimming is fun. Exhausted, the student finished the test. The student stayed to study. Include the type and job of each verbal. (4)

Command word	Topic	Points I need

Identify Swimming as gerund acting as subject noun → Identify Exhausted as participle acting as adjective describing student → Identify to study as infinitive acting as adverb showing purpose → Link each type to its job in the sentence

My answer

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Verbals at Work

Task G

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Complete the table by adding the missing type or job.

Sentence	Verbal	Type	Job
Swimming every day builds endurance.	Swimming every day		subject (noun)
Shivering in the cold, the student pulled on a jacket.	Shivering in the cold	present participle	
The group met after class to review notes.	to review notes		purpose (adverb telling why met)

How did I do?

Circle a face for each line.

I can explain what gerunds, participles, and infinitives do. 

I can identify the function of a verbal in a sentence. 

I can use each type of verbal correctly in my writing. 

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Answer sheet: Verbals at Work

Task A

a student who needs a noun for the subject about homework: a gerund phrase as subject (A gerund acts as a noun, so Finishing homework early saves time works as the subject.)

a student who wants to describe a tired player after a game: a participial phrase as adjective (A participle acts as an adjective, so Exhausted after practice describes the player.)

a student who wants to explain the purpose of staying late: an infinitive phrase to show purpose (An infinitive can act as an adverb telling why, so stayed to practice explains purpose.)

Task B

1. Find the -ing word or to phrase 2. Check if it is the main verb 3. Decide its job in the sentence 4. Label it as gerund, participle, or infinitive 5. Explain its function with evidence

Task C

Answers will vary, e.g. causes: thinking every -ing word is the main verb; effects: wrong labels and sentence fragments in writing; solutions: find the main verb first, then label the verbal's job

Task D

a) Running - gerund acting as subject noun. (2)

b) It is a past participial phrase acting as an adjective describing the team. (2)

c) It is an infinitive phrase acting as an adverb showing purpose, telling why the team stayed late. (2)

Task E

Answers will vary, e.g. Reading improves vocabulary. Swimming builds strength. Counting ceiling tiles helps me focus.

Task F

Command word: Explain

Topic: function of verbals (gerunds, participles, infinitives) in sentences

Points: Identify Swimming as gerund acting as subject noun; Identify Exhausted as participle acting as adjective describing student; Identify to study as infinitive acting as adverb showing purpose; Link each type to its job in the sentence

Task G

Swimming every day builds endurance. | Swimming every day | gerund | subject (noun)

Shivering in the cold, the student pulled on a jacket. | Shivering in the cold | present participle | adjective describing the student

The group met after class to review notes. | to review notes | infinitive | purpose (adverb telling why met)

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