

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Identifying Verbals

What is a **verbal**? Verbals can be tricky. A verbal is a verb masquerading as another part of speech; it's a verb in disguise. **Gerunds, participles, and infinitives** are all verbals.

### Examples

A **gerund** is a verb form ending in **-ing** that is used as a noun.

**Shopping is excellent recreation.**

(The noun **shopping** is the subject of this sentence.)

A **participle** is a verb form ending in **-ed** or **-ing** that is used as an adjective.

**The butterfly fluttering near the daisy is a monarch.**

(The adjective **fluttering** modifies "butterfly.")

An **infinitive** is a verb form introduced by the word **"to"** that can be used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb.

**I plan to read a book on Saturday.**

(The infinitive **to read** is a noun used as a direct object)

**Directions:** In the following paragraph, verbals are underlined. Above each of these words, identify what kind of verbal it is—gerund, participle, or infinitive. The first one has been done for you.

Tiffany, bored with the usual presents, asked for a pet for her birthday. Walking a dog of her own had been her dream for a long time. A poodle puppy wagging its tail in a pet store caught her eye. Hoping for this pet, Tiffany went to the store every day to look at the beloved pup. On her birthday, Tiffany and her mom hurried to the store to buy the poodle. Tiffany named the excited puppy Inglebert, which means "unusually intelligent." Playing fetch and teaching Inglebert new tricks now take up much of Tiffany's time.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Additional Practice: Identifying Verbals

For each of the following sentences, decide if the word or phrase in bold is a participle, gerund, or infinitive. Write a "P" over the word or phrase if it is a participle, a "G" if the word or phrase is a gerund and an "I" if the word or phrase is an infinitive.

1. The children's **singing** and **laughing** woke me up.
2. Mallory likes **to dance** in the rain.
3. There are many ways of **breaking** a heart.
4. A **broken** heart will mend over time.
5. George Burns once said, "Happiness is having a large, **loving, caring**, close-knit family in another city."
6. I believe that **laughing** is the best calorie burner.
7. Woody Allen once said, "I don't want **to achieve** immortality through my work. I want **to achieve** it through not dying."
8. Woody Allen once said, "I don't want to achieve immortality through my work. I want to achieve it through not **dying**."
9. Gore Vidal once said, "It is not enough **to succeed**. Others must fail."
10. **Succeeding** is not enough. Others must fail.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Verbals Practice Answer Exercise

Identify the type of verbal for the underlined word.

1. The thief arrested for the robbery shot at the security guard.  
a. gerund                      b. participle                      c. infinitive
2. They are sure the extra planning will make a difference in the end.  
a. gerund                      b. participle                      c. infinitive
3. Godzilla made a game of smashing all of the red cars parked near the lake.  
a. gerund                      b. participle                      c. infinitive
4. Delighted with the opportunity to learn, Christine took the internship in New York.  
a. gerund                      b. participle                      c. infinitive
5. The show offers everyone a chance to be a millionaire.  
a. gerund                      b. participle                      c. infinitive
6. Samuel decided that missing the lecture every day was hurting his grade.  
a. gerund                      b. participle                      c. infinitive
7. The swimmer, driven by the need to be the best in the world, made himself sick with anxiety.  
a. gerund                      b. participle                      c. infinitive
8. The marathon runner, pushed to the edge of endurance, collapsed at the finish line.  
a. gerund                      b. participle                      c. infinitive
9. Fred's arguing every call is getting frustrating.  
a. gerund                      b. participle                      c. infinitive
10. The completed meal was so beautiful that the guests hesitated to eat it.  
a. gerund                      b. participle                      c. infinitive