

## Grammar Help Sheet: Verbals

A verbal is a word derived from a verb but used as a noun, adjective, or adverb.

There are three kinds of verbals -- **participles**, **gerunds**, and **infinitives**.

**PARTICIPLE**: a form of a verb that acts as an adjective.

Kinds of Participles	Forms	Kinds of Participles
Present Participle	Ends in -ing	Her interesting report kept the audience's attention.
Past Participle	Usually ends in -ed, sometimes in -t, -en, or another irregular ending	The perforated page was torn from the book. The bent tree stood in the yard.
Perfect Participle	Includes having or having been before a past participle	Having rested, I was ready to work. Having been asked, he gave his opinion.

Participles function as adjectives, not verbs; they answer Which one? or What kind?. A verb has a subject and expresses action.

Functioning as a Verb	Functioning as a Participle
Her muscles are aching.	She rubbed her aching muscles.
The shortstop rested on his knee.	The rested shortstop played well.

**GERUND**: a form of a verb that acts as a noun.

Gerunds end in -ing and function in sentences like any other noun.

As a Subject	Teaching is a wonderful profession.
As a Direct Object	A good student must enjoy learning.
As an Indirect Object	Students and teachers should both give studying their full attention.
As an Object of a Preposition	Take your exams only after reading your textbook.

Verbs, participles, and gerunds can all end in -ing. Always check the word's usage in the sentence to determine which part of speech it is.

VERB PHRASE: My family is traveling to Florida.

PARTICIPLE: I plan to join a traveling circus.

GERUND: Traveling is exhausting.

When a personal pronoun precedes a gerund, it must be in the possessive form.

INCORRECT: We enjoyed watching *them* playing.

CORRECT: We enjoyed watching *their* playing.

**INFINITIVE:** a form of a verb that generally appears with the word *to* and acts as a noun, adjective, or adverb.

<b>Kinds of Infinitives</b>	<b>Forms</b>	<b>Examples</b>
Present Infinitive	To plus the base form of a verb	I forgot to lock my car.
Perfect Infinitive	To have or to have been plus a past participle	I would like to have remembered. To have been so forgetful was foolish of me.

Be careful not to confuse infinitives with prepositional phrases. In an infinitive, the word *to* is followed by a verb; in a prepositional phrase, the word *to* is followed by a noun or pronoun.

INFINITIVES: to walk, to read

PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES: to him, to my sister

Occasionally, the word *to* will be omitted from an infinitive, usually after the verbs *dare, hear, help, let, make, please, see,* and *watch*.

Examples: The student helped *teach*.

My mother made me *clean* my room.

Unlike participles and gerunds, infinitives can function as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs. As always, the part of speech is determined by its role in the sentence.

#### **Infinitives Used as Nouns**

<b>As a Subject</b>	To have stolen the car was wrong.
<b>As a Direct Object</b>	Ted decided to leave.
<b>As an Object of a Preposition</b>	I was about to watch television.

#### **Infinitives Used as Modifiers**

<b>As an Adjective</b>	My mother gave me some books to read.
<b>As an Adverb</b>	The writing was difficult to understand.