Introduction to Verbal Phrases

What Are Verbal Phrases?

A verbal phrase is a group of words that includes a verb acting as a different part of speech.

There are three main types of verbal phrases:

1. **Gerunds** – These are verbs ending in **-ing** and act as nouns.
   - **Example:** *Swimming* is fun.
2. **Participles** – These are verbs that act as adjectives, describing nouns.
   - **Example:** The *broken* vase lay on the floor.
3. **Infinitives** – These are verbs in the form of "to + base verb" and can act as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs.
   - **Example:** *To swim* is relaxing.

Identification Practice

Underline the verbal phrases in the following sentences and label each one as a **gerund**, **participle**, or **infinitive**.

1. Running in the morning helps me stay fit. _____
2. The child, laughing joyfully, played in the park. _____
3. To learn a new language is challenging but rewarding. _____
4. I saw the cat sleeping on the couch. _____
5. To succeed in school, you need to study regularly. _____

Identifying Verbal Phrases

Matching Activity

Match each sentence with the correct type of verbal phrase: **Gerund**, **Participle**, or

Infinitive.

1. I want to travel the world.   _____

2. Dancing is her favourite hobby.   _____

3. The boiling water was too hot to touch.   _____

4. To paint requires patience.   _____

5. The barking dog annoyed the neighbours. _____

Fill in the Blank

Complete each sentence by filling in the blank with the correct form of a verbal phrase.

1. _____ helps improve my focus. (Hint: use a gerund)

2. My favourite thing to do on weekends is _____. (Hint: use an

   infinitive)

3. The _____ leaves fell off the tree. (Hint: use a participle)

4. I love _____ in the rain. (Hint: use a gerund)

5. She decided _____ a new skill. (Hint: use an infinitive)

Using Gerunds

Circle the Gerunds

Identify and circle the gerunds in each sentence.

1. Walking to school keeps me healthy.

2. I enjoy cooking new recipes on the weekends.

3. Reading every night helps me relax.

4. Singing loudly made her happy.

5. The art of painting takes patience.

Rewrite Sentences Using Gerunds

Rewrite each sentence to use a gerund in place of an infinitive phrase.

1. I like to swim. → _____

2. He decided to dance. → _____

3. They plan to visit soon. → _____

4. To exercise is important. → _____

5. I love to read before bed. → _____

Using Participles

Underline the Participle Phrases

Underline the participle phrases in each sentence and write what they describe.

1. The cat, purring softly, curled up on my lap.

   ○ Participle phrase: _____

   ○ Describes: _____

2. The children, tired from running, fell asleep quickly.

- Participle phrase: _____

- Describes: _____

3. I found my lost keys lying under the table.

- Participle phrase: _____

- Describes: _____

4. The broken window was quickly repaired.

- Participle phrase: _____

- Describes: _____

5. Watching the sunset, she felt at peace.

- Participle phrase: _____

- Describes: _____

Add Participle Phrases

Complete each sentence by adding a participle phrase.

1. The dog, _____, chased the ball.

2. _____, the baby fell asleep.

3. The food, _____, was delicious.

4. The student, _____, aced the exam.

5. _____, the flowers added colour to the room.

Using Infinitives

Underline the Infinitives

Underline the infinitive phrases in each sentence.

1. She hopes to visit Europe next summer.

2. To be a good friend means being there when needed.

3. He has a lot of chores to do this weekend.

4. To see the Northern Lights is on my bucket list.

5. The teacher encouraged us to read every day.

Sentence Creation with Infinitives

Write sentences using infinitive phrases that match the given prompts.

1. Something you enjoy doing every day.

   ○ Example: _____

2. A goal you have for the future.

   ○ Example: _____

3. Something that requires patience.

   ○ Example: _____

4. A way to relax after a long day.

   ○ Example: _____

5. Something that helps you learn.

   ○ Example: _____

Final Review Test

Final Review: Verbal Phrases

For each question, identify and label the verbal phrase(s) as **Gerund**, **Participle**, or

Infinitive. Then, answer any specific questions about each sentence.

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1. **Identifying Verbal Phrases**

   Read each sentence, underline the verbal phrase, and label it as Gerund, Participle,

   or Infinitive.

   a. "Her dream is to travel the world one day."   _____

   b. "The barking dog woke everyone in the neighbourhood." _____

   c. "Swimming is the best way to stay fit."   _____

   d. "He enjoys painting landscapes in his free time."   _____

   e. "To finish this book will take a lot of time."   _____

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2. **Correcting Sentences**

   Rewrite the sentences to use the correct type of verbal phrase. Hint: Each sentence

   needs a different type of verbal phrase.

   a. "I want cooking for dinner tonight."

   Rewrite: _____

   b. "Running the marathon, he is proud of himself."

   Rewrite: _____

   c. "To play soccer every day good for health."

   Rewrite: _____

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3. **Creating Sentences**

Write a sentence for each prompt using the correct verbal phrase type.

a. A sentence that uses a **gerund** phrase to describe a hobby:

_____

b. A sentence that uses a **participle** phrase to describe a person:

_____

c. A sentence that uses an **infinitive** phrase to express a goal:

_____

_____

4. **Matching Activity**

Match each sentence to the correct type of verbal phrase: **Gerund**, **Participle**, or

Infinitive.

a. "Reading before bed helps me relax."   _____

b. "The broken window needed repair."   _____

c. "To study every day is his goal."   _____

_____

Answer Key below.

Answer Key

1. **Identifying Verbal Phrases**

   - a. **Infinitive** – "to travel the world"

   - b. **Participle** – "barking"

   - c. **Gerund** – "Swimming"

   - d. **Gerund** – "painting landscapes"

   - e. **Infinitive** – "To finish this book"

2. **Correcting Sentences**

   - a. "I want to cook for dinner tonight."

   - b. "Proud of himself, he finished running the marathon."

   - c. "Playing soccer every day is good for health."

3. **Creating Sentences**

   - a. **Gerund (hobby):** "Cooking is her favourite way to relax."

   - b. **Participle (person):** "The smiling girl greeted everyone warmly."

   - c. **Infinitive (goal):** "His goal is to become a doctor."

4. **Matching Activity**

   - a. **Gerund**

   - b. **Participle**

   - c. **Infinitive**