

Gerunds and Infinitives

TN Language Arts Checks for Understanding

0601.1.1

0601.1.9

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0801.1.1

0801.1.7

Gerunds

Gerunds ALWAYS end with –ing and always serve as nouns. This means the gerund can serve as a subject, direct object, object of the preposition, appositive, predicate noun in a sentence. Gerunds can also be phrase format. This means that a gerund will start the phrase and be followed by complements, objects, or modifiers.

Running is his favorite hobby.

(**Running** is the gerund and is the **subject** of the sentence.)

Running in marathons is his favorite hobby.

(**Running in marathons** is the gerund phrase and still serves as the **subject** of the sentence.)

I love reading.

(**Reading** is the gerund and is the **direct object** of the sentence.)

I love reading mystery novels.

(**Reading mystery novels** is the gerund phrase and is still the **direct object** of the sentence.)

Her dream, attending college in Florida, is entirely possible.

(**Attending college in Florida** is the gerund phrase and is an **appositive** in the sentence.)

The dog survived the brutal temperatures by ingesting lots of water.

(**Ingesting lots of water** is the gerund phrase and is the **object of the preposition**.)

Her mother's dream was traveling to tropical destinations.

(**Traveling to tropical destinations** is the gerund phrase and is the **predicate noun** in the sentence.)

Infinitives

An infinitive is another type of verbal. It begins with the word **to** and is followed by the base form of a verb (no –ed or –ing endings).

Infinitives can serve as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs.

They, like gerunds, can come in phrase format.

Never split the word **to** from the base form of the verb! Adverbs should come before or after the infinitive.

To rest is the only thing Emily wanted after her marathon.

(**To rest** is the infinitive and is the **subject** of the sentence.)

To rest under a shade tree is the only thing Emily wanted after her marathon.

(**To rest under a shade tree** is the infinitive phrase and is still the **subject** of the sentence.)

The dog refused to enter the animal hospital.

(**To enter the animal hospital** is the infinitive phrase and is the **direct object** of the sentence.)

Emily always brings a game to play for plane trips.

(**To play for plane trips** is the infinitive phrase and is an **adjective** modifying *game*.)

Henry took the test again to prove his knowledge.

(**To prove his knowledge** is the infinitive phrase and serves as an **adverb** telling *Why* he took the test.)

Practice: Students can work in pairs or individually to correctly complete the sentence. They should be able to complete the sentence and determine whether or not they used a gerund or infinitive for the completion.

Easy Completions

They like **visit** tropical beaches.

I hate **do** homework in English and math.

I need **call** the newspaper for extra copies.

She loved **attending** classes at Georgia Southern.

We learned **give** CPR in our first aid class.

She tried **call** the police immediately!

The class hoped **talk** to the museum guide after the tour.

He wants **go** to college in the West.

Moderate Completions

I plan **take** a walk after school.

We hoped **go** to the gym after he finished with practice.

You need **bring** your passport for cruise documentation.

We will enjoy **decorate** for the prom.

I plan on **travel** to the concert with you.

Difficult Completions

We already planned on **pick** him up after work.

He loved **receive** a card from Kelly at Christmas.

We were going **run** to the local bookstore at the mall.

I will be **see** Henry next week in Paris.

The girls resumed **ride** to school even in the rain.