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## Types of VERBALS

**Verbals Definition:** A verbal is a noun or adjective formed from a verb. In a general way, Verbals express action without limiting the action to any time or asserting it to any subject.

**There are three different kinds of verbals:**

1. Participle (which acts as an adjective)
2. Gerund (which acts as a noun)
3. Infinitive (which also acts as a noun)

The main difference between verbals and other nouns and adjectives is that verbals can take their own objects, even though they are no longer verbs.

### Participle verbals

The first type of verbal, A **participle** is an adjective formed from a verb in [the sentence](#). To make a **present participle**, we have to add -ing to the verb, sometimes *doubling the final consonant*.

1. *Sing* becomes *singing*
2. *play* becomes *playing*
3. *fall* becomes *falling*
4. *run* becomes *running*
5. *beg* becomes *begging*

Another type of participle, the **past participle**, is a little more complicated, since not all verbs form the [past tense](#) regularly. The following are all past participles:

### Examples

1. the **drunken** man
2. a **ruined** city
3. a **misspelled** word

**Note:** *Past participles do not take objects (unless they are part of a **compound verb**). Only transitive verbs can use their past participles as adjectives and that unlike other verbals,*

### Gerund verbals

The second type of verbal, Definition: It is denoted by '**V1 + ing**'. It acts as a noun and a [verb](#). Hence Gerund is also called Verb-noun. Make a gerund is very easy, we only have to add -ing to the verb, just as with a [present participle](#).

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## Examples

- **Organising** *an event* is a huge responsibility.

In this example, the **noun phrase** *an event* is the direct object of the verbal organising, even though event is a noun rather than a verb.

- **Borrowing** money is not a good habit

*borrowing* is a gerund. It is the subject of the sentence. "Money" is the object of the gerund.

- **Seeing** is believing.

In this example, there are two gerunds. The first, *seeing*, is the subject of the sentence. The second, *believing*, is the subject complement.

- I enjoy **studying** coins.

In this example, the gerund is *studying*. The object of the gerund is *coins*.

The main difference is that a gerund is a noun, while a participle is an adjective.

## Difference between Gerund and participle examples

- **Gerund**

I enjoy **reading** (reading is a noun acting as the direct object of the verb enjoy.)

- **Participle**

Keep away from the **uncontrollable** *lunatic*.

(**uncontrollable** is an adjective modifying the noun *lunatic*.)

## Infinitive verbals

The third type of verbals, An infinitive is the basic form of a verb as in *to talk*.

You know an infinitive always consists of 'to' and the base form of the verb. Here is a list of infinitives which are often but not always, these two parts are together.

*to run, - to sleep, - to cry, - to shout, - to jump, - to play, - to dance, to read, - to eat, - to cheat, - to obey, - to order, - to buy.*

**These are *not* infinitives:**

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*Do, does, did, doing, want, wants, wanted, wanting, excel, excels, excelled, excelling, pass, passes, passed, passing.*

An *infinitive* followed by the simple form of the verb and will almost always begin with **to**:

**to + verb = infinitive**

**Important Note:** An infinitive is *not* a verb, So we cannot add *-s, -es, -ed, or -ing* in the end.

## Examples

*In a sentence, an Infinitives can be used as nouns, adjectives, and adverbs. Look at these examples:*

**To play** is the only thing Pari wants to do once she finishes her exams.

- *To play* functions as a noun because it is the subject of the sentence.

I know this play is brilliant but my friend refuses **to watch**.

- *To watch* functions as a noun because it is the direct object for the verb *refuses*.

Wherever Shweta goes, she always carries a face wash **to wash** her face with.

**To wash** functions as an adjective because it modifies *face wash*.

An infinitive will almost always begin with **to**. Exceptions do occur, however. An infinitive will lose its **to** when it follows verbs like **feel, hear, help, let, make, see and watch**.

*The pattern looks like this:*

special verb + direct object + infinitive - to

**Here are some examples:**

- When Amol heard the phone ring, he pressed the red button **to** on the answering machine.

Heard= special verb

phone = direct object

ring = infinitive minus to.

- Mother spent an extra hour helping us understand the concept of global warming.

Helping = special verb

us = direct object

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- Little Alice loved dogs so I removed the cover of the cage and let her pet it for a while.

Let = special verb

her = direct object

pet = infinitive minus to.

## These *are* infinitives:

1. to do
2. to want
3. to excel
4. to pass

## Using Verbals

There are two common problems that come up when we use verbals.

The first is that since verbals look like verbs, they sometimes cause students to write fragmented sentences:

1. Oh, to find true creativity!
2. Ajit, playing the most important game of his life.

The second problem is a very fine point. Although they look the same, gerunds and present participles are different **parts of speech**, and need to be treated differently.

For example, consider the following two sentences:

1. I admire the dog finishing the race.
2. I admire the dog's finishing the race.

In the first example, *finishing* is a participle modifying the noun *dog*: in other words, the writer admires the dog, not what he is doing. In the second example, *finishing* is a participle, modified by the **possessive noun** *dog's*. The writer admires not the dog but the fact that it is finishing the race.