

TEN-MINUTE GRAMMAR

VERBALS

OBJECTIVES:

1. Students should understand that...
 - a. A verbal is a word that comes from a verb but doesn't ACT like a verb in the sentence.
 - b. A gerund is a word that ends in -ing and functions as a noun.
 - c. An infinitive is a verbal consisting of the word "to" and a verb that functions as a noun, adjective, or adverb
 - d. Infinitives and gerunds are often part of phrases within a sentence.
2. Students should be able to...
 - a. Identify examples of gerunds and infinitives.
 - b. Write correct sentences that contain gerunds and infinitives.

LITERATURE:

This unit contains example selections from the novel *Fallen Angels* by Walter Dean Meyers.

A **verbal** is a word that is made from a verb but doesn't ACT like a verb in the sentence. **Gerunds** and **infinitives** are examples of verbals.

Identify the gerund in each of the following sentences (a gerund is an -ing word that acts as a noun, NOT as a verb):

1. Driving is one thing you definitely shouldn't be doing when tired.
2. My friends don't like my singing very much.
3. One of my favorite things to do outdoors is hiking.
4. My teacher got mad at me for texting during class.

Identify the infinitive in each of the following sentences (an infinitive consist of the word "to" followed by a verb that acts as a noun, adjective, or adverb):

5. To live, one must have food, water, and oxygen.
6. We went to the lake and my friends dared me to jump in first.
7. I went to the office to sign several papers yesterday.
8. If your plans involve going to college, you must learn to study.

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **EIGHT LETTERS:** Create as many words as you can using three or more of the letters below (at least one eight-letter word is possible):

C T L O I A V S

A **gerund phrase** consists of a verbal that ends in –ing and everything that goes along with it (like modifiers or direct objects).

Identify the gerunds or gerund phrases in each of the following sentences from Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Meyers:

1. A new supply of insect repellent came in. Lieutenant Carroll said that it was good for making Molotov cocktails.
2. We heard stories. Stories about fighting in Dak To and down south in Pleiku, but we weren't doing any of it.
3. I remembered going to the old cowboy movies.

An **infinitive phrase** consists of an infinitive (the word “to” and a verb) and everything that goes along with it.

Identify the infinitives or infinitive phrases in each of the following sentences from Fallen Angels:

4. The air in Nam was always hard to breathe; it was heavy, thicker than the air back home.
5. Peewee turned over on his bunk to face me.
6. I had to go to the bathroom, but I didn't want to go out to the outdoor latrine.

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **DESCRAMBLER:** Try to sort out the five scrambled words below:
VYWA PINTU NOREWS KREMASR OHPIPNCG

In your own words...

1. What is a verbal?
2. What is a gerund?
3. What is an infinitive?

Fill in the blanks with a gerund or a gerund phrase:

4. _____ will always get you in trouble.
5. My favorite thing to do after school is _____.
6. _____ meant that we had to fill the car up with gas.

Fill in the blanks with an infinitive or an infinitive phrase:

7. They were all waiting for me _____.
8. If you want _____, you'd better start practicing.
9. I was so tired I didn't even have the strength _____.

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **ANAGRAM:** Rearrange the letters in the nonsense phrase below to create new words that actually make sense.

NEO DYNAMIC USE INK MIME

(Hint: animated rodents)

Read the following excerpt from Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Meyers and then answer the following questions:

(a) The talk about us going to Hawaii was stronger than ever. (b) Peewee and I decided to save our money and to have a blast in Hawaii. (c) I also thought about taking some courses at the University of Hawaii.

1. What is the gerund phrase in sentence (a)?
2. What are the two infinitive phrases in sentence (b)?
3. What is the gerund phrase in sentence (c)?
4. This passage has two action verbs. What are they?

Using the proper proofreading marks, correct the six errors in this excerpt:

They where supposed to send in a movie called *Guess Whose Coming to dinner*, with Sidney Poitier. But when they open the cans, they found the movie with Julie Andrews that we that we had already seen

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **FOUR-LETTER WORDS:** Take the four-letter word below and change one letter to make a new four-letter word (keep it clean!) Then take *that* word and change one letter to make a new word. Then take *that* word and... You get the picture.

HARM

REVIEW FOR TODAY'S QUIZ:

1. What is a gerund and a gerund phrase?
2. What is an infinitive and an infinitive phrase?
3. Can you find the infinitive phrase and the gerund phrase in the following sentence?
 - a. Studying often will help to get you accepted into college.
4. Fill in the blank with a gerund phrase:
 - a. My favorite activity is _____.
 - b. _____ can get you in a lot of trouble.
5. Fill in the blank with an infinitive phrase:
 - a. I have a really difficult assignment _____.
 - b. _____, you need to practice every day.

Identify all the infinitives and gerunds in the following excerpts from Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Meyers:

1. “Did seeing that dead guy mess you up some?”
“A little,” I said. “Maybe even more than it did to see Jenkins.”
2. Johnson wanted to get the kids from the village up to the base, but a captain said we couldn’t do that; so Johnson and a guy from Delta Company worked on a way to get a generator down to the village so we could show the movie to them.
3. The only thing to hear was the heavy sound of my own breathing.

Fill in the blanks with your own gerund or infinitive:

4. If you want my help, you just need _____.
5. _____ is the only thing I could think to do.
6. His greatest goal is _____.
7. _____ seemed foolish at the time.
8. Everyone was asking me _____.

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **VOWEL COMBINATOR:** The vowel combination “oi” almost always sounds like the vowel sound in “boy.” List as many words as you can that contain this vowel combo.

Read the following excerpt from Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Meyers and then answer the following questions:

(a) Brew wrote a letter to President Johnson saying that if he wanted us to fight, he had better send us some good televisions, and we all signed it. (b) Then we watched the movie again without the sound, and we all had parts to play in it. (c) That was the best showing of the movie, especially with Peewee as Julie Andrews.

1. What is the infinitive phrase in sentence (b)?
2. What is the gerund phrase in sentence (c)?
3. Sentence (a) has one verb phrase with a helping verb. What is it?
4. What is the linking verb in sentence (c)?

Using the proper proofreading marks, correct the six errors in this excerpt:

“They want me, they know wear to reach me,” Carroll said. “or they can just leave a message my with secretary.” They’re was a sadness about lieutenant Carroll, something you didn’t notice at first, but it was their.

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **CATALOGUE CREATOR:** The prefix “**mis-**” means “badly or wrongly.” How many words can you list that contain this prefix?

Fill in the blanks with a gerund or a gerund phrase:

1. _____ would be better than the alternative.
2. I hope you don't mind my _____.
3. _____ really scared my friends and me.
4. You could get arrested for _____.

Fill in the blanks with an infinitive or an infinitive phrase:

5. I have an assignment _____.
6. Everyone thought James was the best person _____.
7. They asked me _____.
8. We intended _____.

Wordplay – Just for fun!

- **FIXER-ROOTER:** How many words can you think of that have the same prefix, suffix, or root as the multisyllabic word below?

THERMOELECTRICITY

(electricity generated by differences of temperature)

DAY
FOUR

VERBALS

Name:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

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DAY
SIX

VERBALS

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- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

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NAME:

PERIOD:

GERUNDS

Gerunds are -ing words derived from verbs that act as nouns in a sentence. But not all -ing words are gerunds—sometimes they're part of a verb phrase (He *was walking* down the road) or part of a participial phrase (*Removing his hat*, the man stepped inside). **So how can you tell if an -ing word is a gerund or not?**

Since gerunds act like nouns, one way to check if an -ing word is a gerund is to replace it with a pronoun (because pronouns can only replace nouns).

IF AN -ING WORD CAN BE REPLACED BY A PRONOUN, IT IS A GERUND.

*In the following sentences replace the underlined -ing word with a pronoun — either “this” or “that.” Then decide if the -ing word is a gerund (write **GERUND**) or not (write **NOT**):*

- _____ In time, you'll start to like reading.
- _____ Crying, the people left the movie theater.
- _____ Pretending is a childhood habit that some people never grow out of.
- _____ I found out she was lying about her age.
- _____ Cheating students will get an automatic F on the test!

Pronouns (like “this” and “that”) can also replace entire noun phrases (that's the noun any adjective or objects that go with it.)

John crashed his car into the big yellow-brick wall. = John crashed his car into that.

The same trick works with gerund phrases—if you can replace an -ing word and all the words directly connected to it with “this” or “that,” it's a **gerund phrase**.

*Use the “this or that” test decide if the underlined phrase is a **GERUND phrase** or **NOT**:*

- _____ During the week, Sam never gets to sleep before midnight.
- _____ I'm getting really tired of listening to you.
- _____ Escaping from a maximum-security prison would be nearly impossible.

9. _____ I stopped **downloading from illegal websites** after my friend got caught.

10. _____ I noticed a stray dog **running down the street**.

NOW WRITE YOUR OWN GERUND PHRASES!

Write a sentence (each with a gerund or a gerund phrase) that is different from the example sentence while still following same sentence structure:

A gerund can be the subject of the sentence:

Flying terrifies some people.

11. _____ terrifies _____.

Going to the movies has become more expensive every year.

12. _____ has become _____.

A gerund can be the direct object of the verb:

My college friend says he can't stand **studying**.

13. _____ can't stand _____.

The people in the crowd absolutely loved **his crazy guitar playing**.

14. _____ absolutely loved _____.

A gerund can come after a linking verb to tell us something the subject IS:

My favorite winter activity is **skiing**.

15. _____ is _____.

My worst fear is **getting trapped in an avalanche**.

16. _____ is _____.

A gerund can come after a preposition:

My uncle has a problem with **drinking**.

17. _____ with _____.

You could get fired for **faking an illness to avoid work**.

18. _____ for _____.

NAME:

PERIOD:

INFINITIVES

Infinitives and **infinitive phrases** can have several different functions within a sentence. They can act as **nouns**, **adjectives**, or **adverbs**. Interestingly, even though infinitives consist of **a verb with the word “to” in front of it** (like “to live,” “to dance,” “to laugh”), infinitives never act as verbs within a sentence (weird, right?).

Write two sentences (each with an infinitive or an infinitive phrase) that are different from the example sentence while still following same sentence structure:

An infinitive can be the subject of the sentence:

To survive is every creature’s greatest natural desire.

1. _____ is _____.
2. _____ is _____.

To write a best-selling novel has always been one of my goals.

3. _____ has always been _____.
4. _____ has always been _____.

An infinitive can be the direct object of the verb:

Everyone in the class wanted **to leave**.

5. _____ wanted _____.
6. _____ wanted _____.

My friends and I agreed **to help one another with our chores**.

7. _____ agreed _____.
8. _____ agreed _____.

An infinitive can come after a linking verb to tell us something the subject IS:

My cat's favorite pastime is **to sleep**.

9. _____ is _____.

10. _____ is _____.

One of the job requirements is **to speak fluent Spanish**.

11. _____ is _____.

12. _____ is _____.

An infinitive can be an adjective modifying a noun:

Grandpa has a brand new horse **to train**.

13. _____ (noun) _____.

14. _____ (noun) _____.

She assigned us two books **to read by next week**.

15. _____ (noun) _____.

16. _____ (noun) _____.

An infinitive can be an adverb modifying a verb (usually answering "why" someone does an action—they did it "in order to win" or "in order to get a decent computer"):

You must fight **to win**.

17. _____ (verb) _____.

18. _____ (verb) _____.

I spent every penny I had **to get a decent computer**.

19. _____.

20. _____.

If an infinitive phrase acting as an adverb begins the sentence, put a comma after it:

To improve your basketball skills, you must practice every day.

21. _____, you must _____.

22. _____, you must _____.