Verbals at Work

Sort how each -ing word works in a sentence.

8.LL.20.a "Construct verbals (gerunds, participles, and infinitives) in pieces of writing, including isolated sentences, paragraphs, and essays."

NAME _____ DATE _____

GERUND

A gerund is a verb form ending in -ing that acts as a noun. It can name an activity.

Sketching calms Mira.

PARTICIPLE

A participle is a verb form that describes a noun. An -ing participle tells what someone or something is doing.

The **glowing** lantern lit the attic.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle GERUND or PARTICIPLE for each bold word, then choose two numbered items and explain what each bold word does in its sentence.

1.	**Hiking** builds stamina.	GERUND PARTICIPLE
2.	Nora enjoys **painting**.	GERUND PARTICIPLE
3.	The **dripping** faucet kept us awake.	GERUND PARTICIPLE
4.	The team practiced **passing**.	GERUND PARTICIPLE
5.	A **soaring** hawk crossed the field.	GERUND PARTICIPLE
6.	The **crackling** fire warmed the cabin.	GERUND PARTICIPLE
7.	We learned about **recycling**.	GERUND PARTICIPLE
8.	**Swimming** takes practice.	GERUND PARTICIPLE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write two new sentences, one with a gerund and one with a participle; bold or underline the -ing word in each.

GERUND _____

PARTICIPLE _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence with both a gerund and a participle, then identify each one.

ANSWER KEY

Verbals at Work

GRADE 8 · 8.LL.20.a

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	**Hiking** builds stamina.	**GERUND**	Hiking names an activity and is the subject.
2	Nora enjoys **painting**.	**GERUND**	Painting names the activity Nora enjoys.
3	The **dripping** faucet kept us awake.	**PARTICIPLE**	Dripping describes the faucet.
4	The team practiced **passing**.	**GERUND**	Passing names the activity the team practiced.
5	A **soaring** hawk crossed the field.	**PARTICIPLE**	Soaring describes the hawk.
6	The **crackling** fire warmed the cabin.	**PARTICIPLE**	Crackling describes the fire.
7	We learned about **recycling**.	**GERUND**	Recycling names the activity learned about.
8	**Swimming** takes practice.	**GERUND**	Swimming names an activity and is the subject.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **GERUND**: **Cooking** saves money.
- **PARTICIPLE**: The **shivering** kitten hid beneath a chair.

Challenge: Reading soothed the **crying** child. Reading is the gerund, and crying is the participle.

For Part 2, students should explain the word's job, not just point out its -ing ending. For example, in item 1, hiking names an activity; in item 3, dripping describes the faucet.