

Verb Job Sort

See whether an -ing verbal names or describes.

7.L.GC.1.57 "Usage: Form and use verbals and verbal phrases (participles/participials, gerunds, and infinitives) based on function. (Introduce)"

NAME _____

DATE _____

GERUND

A gerund or gerund phrase ends in -ing and does a noun's job. It names an activity, person, place, thing, or idea.

Exploring distant planets sparks curiosity.

PARTICIPLE

A participle or participial phrase acts like an adjective. It describes a noun or pronoun.

The drifting clouds covered the moon.

1 SORT

8 items

Read each sentence, circle GERUND or PARTICIPLE, then choose two items and explain what job each -ing verbal does.

1. Sketching cartoons relaxes me.

GERUND

PARTICIPLE

2. Baking bread takes patience.

GERUND

PARTICIPLE

3. The howling wind shook the shutters.

GERUND

PARTICIPLE

4. Reading before bed helps me sleep.

GERUND

PARTICIPLE

5. The student carrying the violin smiled.

GERUND

PARTICIPLE

6. The turtles crossing the road stopped traffic.

GERUND

PARTICIPLE

7. Collecting stamps can be expensive.

GERUND

PARTICIPLE

8. The sparkling fountain drew a crowd.

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 one new sentence with a gerund and one new sentence with a participle.

GERUND _____

PARTICIPLE _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that has both a gerund phrase and a participial phrase, then label each one.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Sketching cartoons relaxes me.	GERUND	Sketching cartoons names an activity and is the subject of the sentence.
2	Baking bread takes patience.	GERUND	Baking bread names an activity and is the subject of the sentence.
3	The howling wind shook the shutters.	PARTICIPLE	Howling describes the noun wind.
4	Reading before bed helps me sleep.	GERUND	Reading before bed names an activity and is the subject of the sentence.
5	The student carrying the violin smiled.	PARTICIPLE	Carrying the violin describes the noun student.
6	The turtles crossing the road stopped traffic.	PARTICIPLE	Crossing the road describes the noun turtles.
7	Collecting stamps can be expensive.	GERUND	Collecting stamps names an activity and is the subject of the sentence.
8	The sparkling fountain drew a crowd.	PARTICIPLE	Sparkling describes the noun fountain.

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:** Hiking steep trails builds endurance.
- **PARTICIPLE:** The glowing lantern lit the tent.

Challenge: Building model rockets excited the students waiting in line. Building model rockets is a gerund phrase, and waiting in line is a participial phrase.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify whether the -ing verbal names an activity or describes a noun. In the challenge, the gerund phrase should do a noun's job, and the participial phrase should describe a noun or pronoun.