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.

ANSWER KEY

Verb Job Sort

GRADE 7 · 7.L.GC.1.57

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.