

Noun or Describer?

Sort gerund phrases and participial phrases by their jobs.

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

NAME _____

DATE _____

NOUN JOB

A gerund phrase begins with an -ing verb form and works as a noun. It can name an action or activity.

[Knitting scarves] comforts Grandma.

DESCRIBING JOB

A participial phrase works as an adjective. It describes a noun or pronoun in the sentence.

[Glittering at dawn], lanterns illuminated pavement.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle the category for each bracketed phrase, then choose two items and explain whether each phrase works as a noun or describes a noun.

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. [Solving logic puzzles] sharpens my focus. | ☐ GERUND | ☐ PARTICIPLE |
| 2. [Startled by the alarm], the campers packed quickly. | ☐ GERUND | ☐ PARTICIPLE |
| 3. The dog, [chasing a falling leaf], ran through the yard. | ☐ GERUND | ☐ PARTICIPLE |
| 4. Tara enjoys [sketching city skylines]. | ☐ GERUND | ☐ PARTICIPLE |
| 5. [Building a model robot] took all afternoon. | ☐ GERUND | ☐ PARTICIPLE |
| 6. [Hidden behind the curtain], the speaker waited. | ☐ GERUND | ☐ PARTICIPLE |
| 7. We discussed [recycling old electronics]. | ☐ GERUND | ☐ PARTICIPLE |
| 8. My favorite weekend activity is [baking bread]. | ☐ 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 sentence with a gerund phrase and one sentence with a participial phrase. Put brackets around each phrase.

GERUND _____

PARTICIPLE _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that contains both a gerund phrase and a participial phrase. Put brackets around the participial phrase and braces around the gerund phrase.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	[Solving logic puzzles] sharpens my focus.	GERUND	The phrase is the subject and names an activity.
2	[Startled by the alarm], the campers packed quickly.	PARTICIPLE	The phrase describes the campers.
3	The dog, [chasing a falling leaf], ran through the yard.	PARTICIPLE	The phrase describes the dog.
4	Tara enjoys [sketching city skylines].	GERUND	The phrase is the object of enjoys and names an activity.
5	[Building a model robot] took all afternoon.	GERUND	The phrase is the subject and names an activity.
6	[Hidden behind the curtain], the speaker waited.	PARTICIPLE	The phrase describes the speaker.
7	We discussed [recycling old electronics].	GERUND	The phrase is the object of discussed and names an activity.
8	My favorite weekend activity is [baking bread].	GERUND	The phrase names the activity and completes the linking verb is.

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:** [Repairing bicycles] saves money.
- **PARTICIPLE:** [Tired from practice], Jordan sat quietly.

Challenge: [Carrying a stack of folders], Ms. Lee enjoyed {organizing tomorrow's materials}.

Gerund items are 1, 4, 5, 7, and 8. Participial items are 2, 3, and 6; proof explanations should identify the phrase's noun job or the noun it describes.