The Repair Café

Find verbals by the jobs they do in a sentence.

L.8.1.a "Identify verbals correctly based on their intended function."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline verbal phrases that act as nouns, circle verbal phrases that describe nouns, and draw a box around verbal phrases that explain why someone acts. Choose each mark by the phrase's job in its sentence.

A Saturday at the Repair Café

1 On Saturday, the neighborhood library hosted a repair café. Maya arrived with a lamp that blinked whenever its cord moved. Fixing the lamp mattered to her because it had belonged to her grandfather. At one table, Jo, a volunteer, examined the frayed cord. Jo explained that the first step was to unplug the lamp. Maya wanted to help, but Jo handled the electrical parts. Nearby, a child watched a spinning wheel on an old bicycle. The room smelled faintly of dust and warm tea.

2 Across the room, Theo worked on a backpack with a torn strap. Sewing felt unfamiliar, so he practiced on a scrap of cloth first. His aunt showed him a sturdy stitch, then handed him the needle. Theo moved slowly to avoid knots. When the practice seam held, he repaired the strap with blue thread. A waiting student offered him a second backpack, but Theo shook his head. He said he needed a break before starting another project, and his aunt laughed.

3 At the last table, Nina sorted loose buttons beside a coat with an empty sleeve cuff. She chose a bright green button from a tin of spare parts. Searching for blue thread took longer than she expected, but a visitor found a small spool under the table. Nina stitched the button in place while the visitor held the coat steady. To check her work, Nina pulled gently on the button. It stayed firm. By five o'clock, the tables were clear, and the visitors carried home objects they could use again.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In “Fixing the lamp mattered to her,” what job does “Fixing the lamp” do? How can you tell?

2. What noun does “spinning” describe in the first paragraph? Is “spinning” acting as a noun or an adjective?

3. In “the first step was to unplug the lamp,” what job does “to unplug the lamp” do?

4. Why did Nina pull on the button? Explain how “To check her work” functions in that sentence.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about a small project at home or school. Use a gerund as the subject of one sentence, a participle describing a noun in another, and an infinitive showing purpose in the third; underline each target verbal.

The Repair Café

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline verbal phrases that act as nouns, circle verbal phrases that describe nouns, and draw a box around verbal phrases that explain why someone acts. Choose each mark by the phrase's job in its sentence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In "Fixing the lamp mattered to her," what job does "Fixing the lamp" do? How can you tell?	**It acts as a noun. The gerund phrase is the subject of "mattered."**
2	What noun does "spinning" describe in the first paragraph? Is "spinning" acting as a noun or an adjective?	**It describes "wheel," so the participle acts as an adjective.**
3	In "the first step was to unplug the lamp," what job does "to unplug the lamp" do?	**The infinitive phrase acts as a noun. It identifies what the first step was.**
4	Why did Nina pull on the button? Explain how "To check her work" functions in that sentence.	**She pulled on it to check her work. The infinitive phrase acts as an adverb because it explains why she pulled.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Sorting the art supplies takes time. A cracked box sits beside the shelf. I bring tape to repair the box.

Accept accurate verbal phrases rather than single words when students mark the passage. In the open response, check that the three underlined verbals function as a subject, an adjective, and an expression of purpose, respectively.