What Is Doing?

Sort -ing words by the job they do.

8.LL.16.a "Identify gerunds, participles, infinitives, and clauses."

NAME _____ DATE _____

GERUND

A gerund is an -ing verb form that acts like a noun. It can name an activity that is the subject of a sentence.

Sketching calms Maya.

PARTICIPLE

A participle is an -ing verb form that describes a noun. Look for the noun it describes.

A **shimmering** lantern lit our porch.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle the category of each bold word; in Part 2, choose one item from each category and explain how you knew.

1. **Hiking** builds stamina. — GERUND / PARTICIPLE
2. The **barking** dog woke our neighbor. — GERUND / PARTICIPLE
3. A **dripping** faucet kept Leo awake. — GERUND / PARTICIPLE
4. **Cooking** takes patience. — GERUND / PARTICIPLE
5. **Reading** expands your vocabulary. — GERUND / PARTICIPLE
6. **Swimming** strengthens muscles. — GERUND / PARTICIPLE
7. The **glowing** screen hurt my eyes. — GERUND / PARTICIPLE
8. **Drawing** helps Nia relax. — GERUND / PARTICIPLE

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Choose one item from each category and explain how you knew.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

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

GERUND _____

PARTICIPLE _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence with both types, underline each -ing word, and name each type.

ANSWER KEY

What Is Doing?

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	**Hiking** builds stamina.	**GERUND**	Hiking names the activity that is the subject.
2	The **barking** dog woke our neighbor.	**PARTICIPLE**	Barking describes the dog.
3	A **dripping** faucet kept Leo awake.	**PARTICIPLE**	Dripping describes the faucet.
4	**Cooking** takes patience.	**GERUND**	Cooking names the activity that is the subject.
5	**Reading** expands your vocabulary.	**GERUND**	Reading names the activity that is the subject.
6	**Swimming** strengthens muscles.	**GERUND**	Swimming names the activity that is the subject.
7	The **glowing** screen hurt my eyes.	**PARTICIPLE**	Glowing describes the screen.
8	**Drawing** helps Nia relax.	**GERUND**	Drawing names the activity that is the subject.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: Choose one item from each category and explain how you knew.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **GERUND**: Climbing tests my balance.
- **PARTICIPLE**: The rustling leaves covered the path.

Challenge: Painting relaxed the waiting guests. Painting: gerund; waiting: participle.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the word's job in the sentence. For example, hiking names an activity used as the subject in item 1, while barking describes dog in item 2.