The ING Switch

One ending, two jobs in a sentence

8.5.R.2 "Students will recognize and explain the impact on meaning of parts of speech in sentences: • nouns • verbals (i.e., gerunds, participles..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

GERUND

A gerund ends in -ing and acts as a noun. It names an activity instead of describing something.

Kayaking builds stamina.

PARTICIPLE

A participle can end in -ing and act as an adjective. It describes a noun by telling what that noun is doing.

Glowing lanterns illuminated caverns.

1 SORT

8 items

Circle GERUND or PARTICIPLE for each bold word; in Part 2, choose one item from each category and explain how you knew.

1. **Recycling** saves resources. GERUND PARTICIPLE
2. **Hiking** demands steady effort. GERUND PARTICIPLE
3. The **flickering** screen distracted Omar. GERUND PARTICIPLE
4. **Whistling** annoys my brother. GERUND PARTICIPLE
5. A **dripping** faucet kept us awake. GERUND PARTICIPLE
6. The **laughing** audience applauded. GERUND PARTICIPLE
7. **Gardening** requires patience. GERUND PARTICIPLE
8. The **rustling** leaves covered the path. 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 new sentences, one with a gerund and one with a participle. Bold the -ing word in each sentence.

GERUND _____

PARTICIPLE _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence with both a gerund and a participle. Bold both -ing words, then explain which word does each job.

ANSWER KEY # The ING Switch

GRADE 8 · 8.5.R.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	**Recycling** saves resources.	**GERUND**	Recycling names the activity that saves resources.
2	**Hiking** demands steady effort.	**GERUND**	Hiking names the activity that demands effort.
3	The **flickering** screen distracted Omar.	**PARTICIPLE**	Flickering describes the screen.
4	**Whistling** annoys my brother.	**GERUND**	Whistling names the activity that annoys someone.
5	A **dripping** faucet kept us awake.	**PARTICIPLE**	Dripping describes the faucet.
6	The **laughing** audience applauded.	**PARTICIPLE**	Laughing describes the audience.
7	**Gardening** requires patience.	**GERUND**	Gardening names the activity that requires patience.
8	The **rustling** leaves covered the path.	**PARTICIPLE**	Rustling describes the leaves.

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**: **Drawing** relaxes Tia.
- **PARTICIPLE**: **Soaring** eagles circled the valley.

Challenge: Painting calms the **shivering** child. Painting names an activity, while shivering describes the child.

For Part 2, look for explanations based on each bold word's job in its sentence, not just its -ing ending. A gerund acts as a noun, while a participle describes a noun.