

Unit 15 Study Guide – Verbals

A verbal is a verb that is used as another part of speech.

15.1

A participle can have the ending of “ing” or the ending of “ed, or en.” Participles are used as adjectives to describe nouns.

The **fishing** pole was on the dock.

The **broken** arrow fell to the ground.

A participial phrase is a group of words that includes a participle and other words that complete its meaning.

A participial phrase can appear before or after the word it is describing. Place the phrase as close as possible to the modified word; otherwise, the meaning of the sentence may be unclear, and you may end up with a “dangling” participle.

15.2

A gerund is a verb that ends in “ing” and is used as a noun in the sentence. It can be the subject, direct object, or object of a preposition.

Walking is excellent exercise.

He likes **swimming** in the lake.

A gerund phrase is a group of words that includes a gerund and other words that complete its meaning.

Scoring a touchdown might not be very easy.

He enjoys **walking the dog each day**.

15.3

An infinitive is the “to” form of the verb. (to run, to walk, to jump, to sit, to hop). It is formed by using the word “to” along with the base form of the verb, and it is used as a noun in the sentence. It can be the subject or the direct object.

The team wanted **to win** the game.

The student decided **to do** his homework.

An infinitive phrase is a group of words that includes an infinitive and other words that complete its meaning.

To be the winner is his goal.

She wants **to have the party** Saturday.

Don't confuse the infinitive “to” with the preposition “to.” When used as part of an infinitive, “to” has a verb following it. When used as a preposition, “to” will have a noun or noun phrase following it.