

Verbals--Participles, Gerunds & Infinitives

Participles are verb forms that are used as ADJECTIVES
(use the adjective questions--which one? or what kind?)

The **starving** hikers gobbled up Mom's **baked** ham.

There are two kinds of participles--present (the -ing form) and past (most often the -ed form, but some are irregular).

Participial phrases--participle with its modifiers and compliments, all working together as an adjective (they are often, not always, off-set by commas)

The Sahara, **covering about 3,500,000 square miles**, is the largest desert in the world.

Blazing hot during the day, the desert cools off considerably at night.

Gerunds--a form of the verb that is used as a noun

It can be used any way a noun can be used:

subject **Singing** is my best talent.

direct object Do you like **skiing**?

indirect object His trimmer waistline gave his
 dieting a big boost.

object of preposition I can't stop her from **speaking**.

predicate nominative My favorite pastime is **reading**.

appositive I have a new hobby, **jogging**.

Gerunds and participles may look alike (both ending in -ing), but you can tell the difference by how they function in the sentence.

Like participles, gerunds can appear with their modifiers and compliments as a gerund phrase.

Watching a football game is one of my favorite pastimes.

The loud talking bothered the people in the library.

Exercising daily is important for everyone.

Infinitives--a verb form that usually begins with **to**.

It is used as a noun, an adjective or an adverb.

To succeed was his only goal.

They wanted **to eat**.

That is a big question **to answer**.

The book **to read** is a mystery.

She was eager **to study**.

She ran **to catch** the bus.

Again, infinitives can be used in phrases with their modifiers and compliments.

We hope to finish early.

Tomorrow my family plans to leave for Utah.

Does he want to grill some fish?