

Grade 8 Playlist: Verbals

Aligns with CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.1.A:

- Explain the function of verbals (gerunds, participles, infinitives) in general and their function in particular sentences.

Welcome

How does *read* function in each of the following sentences? Is it ever a subject or an object? What about a modifying word such as an adjective or adverb?

1. It is reading time.
2. I am reading.
3. Reading is fun.
4. Reading books, I learn a lot.
5. My friends also like reading.
6. Do you like to read?

The word *read* is a verb. It refers to the action of viewing and understanding text. Like all verbs, *read* has a variety of forms. As these six sentences demonstrate, not every form of a verb functions as a verb. This playlist will focus on three such forms: gerunds, participles, and infinitives.

Read and Watch!

Review three basic kinds of verbs by reading and watching the following materials:

- <https://www.uvu.edu/writingcenter/docs/handouts/typesofverbs.pdf>
- <https://www.opened.com/video/verb-review-of-action-linking-and-helping-verbs/203100>

Objectives

In this playlist, students will learn how to:

- identify and use different kinds of verbals.
- explain how gerunds, participles, and infinitives function in sentences.

Key Terms

- A **verbal** is a word formed from a verb and used as a noun, adjective, or adverb. There are three kinds of verbals: *gerunds*, *participles*, and *infinitives*.



Exploring the Standard

A Closer Look: Gerunds

A **gerund** is a verbal that ends in *-ing* and that functions as a noun. Compare these sentences:

1. School is fun.
2. Reading is fun.

In each sentence, a subject is described as fun. In sentence 1, the subject is a common noun: *school*. In sentence 2, the subject is a gerund: *reading*. Because *reading* is a gerund, it conveys action even though it functions as a noun. Sentence 2 implies that the *act of reading* is fun. In contrast, it does not make sense to say that the *act of school* is fun.

Gerunds can also be objects. Compare these sentences:

1. I like school.
2. I like reading.

In each sentence, a direct object follows a transitive verb to answer this question: *What do I like?* In sentence 1, the direct object is a common noun: *school*. In sentence 2, the direct object is a gerund: *reading*. Once again, *reading* conveys action while functioning as a noun: Sentence 2 implies that the subject likes the *act of reading*.

This last statement shows that gerunds can also be objects of prepositions: *the act of reading* is a prepositional phrase. Additionally, gerunds can be subject complements, as in this sentence: *My favorite hobby is reading*. (A subject complement is sometimes called a predicate noun.)

A Closer Look: Gerund Phrases

Other words can be added to a gerund to form a gerund phrase. The entire gerund phrase functions as a noun. In each of these examples, the *gerund phrase* is italicized and the *gerund* is red.

- Gerund phrase as subject:
 - Eating *breakfast every day* gives me energy.
- Gerund phrase as direct object:
 - Please stop calling *me after 10 p.m.*
- Gerund phrase as object of preposition:
 - We should get money from the ATM before going *to the store*.
- Gerund phrase as subject complement:
 - My best event is running *the 100-meter dash*.



Teaching Notes: Verbs

The goal of L.8.1.A is for students to understand, identify, and correctly use verbals. The following information contains ideas that teachers can incorporate into their classrooms as well as an additional resource to peruse and integrate into instruction as appropriate.

Answers to Welcome Activity

1. It is **reading** time. (*present participle*)
 - In this sentence, *reading* functions as an adjective, modifying the noun *time*.
 - Ask: *Which kind* of time? *Reading* time.
2. I am **reading**. (*verb*)
 - In this sentence, *reading* is the main verb in the verb phrase *am reading*, which is the present progressive tense of the verb *read*.
3. **Reading** is fun. (*gerund*)
 - In this sentence, *reading* functions as a noun: the subject of the linking verb *is*.
4. **Reading** books, I learn a lot. (*present participle*)
 - In this sentence, *reading* functions as an adverb, modifying the verb *learn*.
 - Ask: *How* do I learn? By *reading* books.
5. My friends also like **reading**. (*gerund*)
 - In this sentence, *reading* functions as a noun: the direct object of the verb *like*.
 - Ask: My friends also like *what*? *Reading*.
6. Do you like to **read**? (*infinitive*)
 - In this sentence, *read* is part of the infinitive *to read*, which functions as a noun: the direct object of the verb *like*.
 - Ask: Do you like *what*? *To read*.

