

VERBALS

In English, some words are formed from verbs, but don't act as verbs. Instead, they function as nouns, adjectives and adverbs. Such words are called **verbals**.

There are three types of verbals in English: gerunds, participles and infinitives.

GERUNDS

A **gerund** is a verbal ending in *-ing*, which **functions as a noun**.

If you take almost any verb in the simple present form, add *-ing* (such as *playing, eating, watching, sewing etc.*) then use it as a noun, you will have a gerund!

A few spellings are irregular. Think about word *running* (an extra 'n') or *giggling* (drop the 'e').

See how the gerund is used as a noun here? It is a direct object.

He loves **running**.

Running is a great activity.

Here, *running* is also a noun but it is the subject of the sentence.

In both sentences you could replace the gerunds with any other noun and the sentences would still make grammatical sense.

NOTES ON GERUNDS:

- » Formed from verbs
- » End with *-ing*
- » Function as nouns

PARTICIPLES

Participles are verbals when they **function as adjectives**.

There are two types of participles: **present** (always end with *-ing*) and **past** (end with *-ed, -en, -t, -d or -n*). When used as adjectives, they are verbals.

The present participle is used as an adjective here. It describes the baby.

He could not quiet the **crying** baby.

Past participle

The **excited** children were noisy.

Crying all the way, Betty ran out.

Here, we have a participle phrase which functions as an adjective as it describes Betty.

NOTES ON PARTICIPLES:

- » 2 types: present & past.
- » Present participles end with *-ing*. Past participles have various endings.
- » Are verbals when they function as adjectives.

INFINITIVES

Infinitives are verbals which can **function as adjectives, nouns or adverbs**.

Infinitives are formed by adding 'to' in front of the simple present form of a verb (to run, to play, to sit, to eat, etc.).

Adverb - He went **to ask** his father.

Adjective - Bring a book **to read**.

Noun - **To travel** requires money.

NOTES ON INFINITIVES:

- » Formed by adding 'to' before the present simple verb form
- » Can function as nouns, adjectives or adverbs.