

Unit 8: Verbals

Lesson 47

Participles and Participial Phrases

A **present participle** is formed by adding *-ing* to a verb. It functions as the main verb in a verb phrase (used with forms of *be*) or as an adjective.

The lion was **roaring**. (present participle as main verb)

The **roaring** lion scared us. (present participle as adjective)

A **past participle** is usually formed by adding *-ed* to a verb. It functions as the main verb in a verb phrase (used with forms of *have*) or as an adjective.

The mystery had **baffled** the police. (past participle as main verb)

The **baffled** police looked for clues. (past participle as adjective)

Do not confuse the past participle with the past form of a verb.

The drummer **joined** the band. (past form)

The drummer had **joined** the band. (past participle)

A **participial phrase** is a group of words that includes a participle and other words that complete its meaning. It is used as an adjective. A participial phrase can appear before or after the word it describes. Place the phrase as close as possible to the modified word to avoid unclear meaning.

Growling furiously, the bear clawed at the bars of its cage.

The insects **mounted in this frame** are part of a much larger collection.

► **Exercise 1** Underline each participle. Write *V* (verb) or *adj.* (adjective) in the blank to indicate its use in the sentence.

- adj. The young campers had an exciting time.
- _____ 1. Mark Walker had invited Diego to join him and his parents on a wilderness trip.
- _____ 2. Diego had never camped before.
- _____ 3. Arriving at the campsite, everyone helped put up the tents.
- _____ 4. Two pitched tents would be their homes for the next week.
- _____ 5. Mr. Walker, inspecting their work, praised the boys for their efforts.
- _____ 6. While the adults were preparing supper, the boys went for a hike.
- _____ 7. The boys discovered a discarded set of antlers from a deer.

- _____ 8. The hikers, beaming with pride, displayed their trophy at the campsite.
- _____ 9. Then they all ate a delicious meal prepared by Mrs. Walker.
- _____ 10. Mr. Walker made cornbread in a frying pan.
- _____ 11. Tasting delicious, the food disappeared in record time.
- _____ 12. Diego, feeling content, savored every bite of the meal.
- _____ 13. "Do you know what you young men will be doing after the meal?" asked Mark's dad.
- _____ 14. Looking at his friend, Mark replied, "We have to clean up."
- _____ 15. That night, waking with a start, Diego heard a strange sound outside the tent.
- _____ 16. Shaking, he fumbled for his flashlight in his backpack.
- _____ 17. He heard a crackling noise and then a loud crash.
- _____ 18. The startled Diego shone his light in the direction of the noise.
- _____ 19. Two skunks had knocked over the trash cans.
- _____ 20. The boy ran for the tent and told the others what he had seen.

► **Exercise 2** Underline each participle or participial phrase. Circle the noun it modifies.

Scattering in all directions, the campers evaded the skunk.

1. Many campers tell about frightening encounters with skunks.
2. This animal, scampering along many wooded areas, lives only in the Western Hemisphere.
3. Skunks come in various sizes, depending on the type.
4. The striped skunk is the most common type.
5. It is a furry, black animal with white stripes radiating down its back.
6. In the daytime, sleeping skunks rest in underground dens.
7. Hunting at night, most skunks catch their own food.
8. Their diet consists mainly of small rodents, caterpillars, and other insects, but they also eat limited amounts of fruit and grain.
9. While out at night, wandering skunks sometimes surprise people.

10. The skunk is notorious for the foul, stinking liquid it sprays.
11. This liquid, called *musk*, comes from glands at the base of the tail.
12. Startled by a skunk, a person must remember to use caution.
13. Any alarmed person who sees a skunk should remain calm.
14. Running from the threat, many people scare the skunk.
15. Instinct causes a frightened skunk to spray.
16. The skunk will try to escape, spraying wildly.
17. It is very difficult to remove the stinking substance from clothes.
18. Soaked in tomato juice, clothes may begin to lose the smell.
19. However, the remaining odor usually lasts several days.
20. Experienced campers know to keep their distance from skunks and other wild animals.

► **Exercise 3** Underline each participle or participial phrase. If it is used as an adjective, draw an arrow to the word it modifies.

Exploring the woods, the students saw many forms of life.

1. Springing from every spot, life fills a forest.
2. Both plants and animals exist in a balancing act of survival.
3. The crawling insects even have a role.
4. A complicated food web connects all the creatures to each other.
5. All the energy in an ecosystem is cycling continuously.
6. The interconnected food chain begins with plants of all sizes.
7. Plants called producers make their own food.
8. All around the world, plants are producing food from sunlight.
9. Called photosynthesis, this process is the main function of leaves.
10. Animals, being hunters, cannot produce food this way.
11. Eating the plants, many animals feed themselves.

12. Plant-eating animals are primary consumers.
13. Other larger animals eat the smaller unprotected ones.
14. Hiking in the woods, we can see all types of creatures.
15. For example, one may see a raccoon living in a tree.
16. Evidence of the amazing diversity of life is everywhere.
17. It is sad to see this diversity threatened by a forest fire.
18. However, some controlled forest fires can be good.
19. Happening naturally, forest fires can be a beneficial part of nature.
20. Forest fires can remove dead trees that are just taking up space.
21. Removing trees, fires can allow new fields of grass to grow.
22. Replenishing the soil, the ashes from a fire provide fresh nutrients.
23. Unfortunately, humans are still starting forest fires.
24. In spite of fires, life is continuing to exist everywhere.
25. Many spirited animals escape the blazes and move to nearby land.
26. Sometimes a changing forest causes some populations to increase.
27. Large families of grazing deer continue to fill the land.
28. Running through the woods, deer are beautiful creatures.
29. When they die, the remaining material decays.
30. Helping break down the remains of plants and animals, decomposers complete the food cycle.
31. These microscopic organisms constantly remove rotting material from the ecosystem.
32. These tiny organisms are serving a purpose in the forest.

Lesson 48**Gerunds and Gerund Phrases**

A **gerund** is a verb form that ends in *-ing* and is used as a noun.

Traveling can be pleasant or tedious. (gerund as subject)

Prilly dreaded **moving**. (gerund as direct object)

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

Assigning the chores took longer than expected. (gerund phrase as subject)

The family enjoyed **fishing in the bayou**. (gerund phrase as direct object)

Do not confuse gerunds with participles, which also end in *-ing*. They are distinguished by their function in a sentence.

Freddy is **coloring**. (participle as main verb)

Maria thrived on the **loving** attention. (participle as adjective)

Crying is not always a sign of sadness. (gerund as subject)

► **Exercise 1 Underline each gerund or gerund phrase.**

Giggling uncontrollably is her way to show that she is nervous.

1. Gregor tremendously enjoyed showing his dogs.
2. Taking a long drive calms many people.
3. To buy the new bike, Ava began saving her money.
4. Cleaning the bathroom is a chore that almost no one enjoys.
5. Many people cannot stand waiting in long lines.
6. Hoping for the best is a healthy practice.
7. Walking is good exercise.
8. The state championships involved competing for the grand prize.
9. Donating money to charity was the purpose of the car wash.
10. Mina's father always liked encouraging the team.
11. Including others in games shows good sportsmanship.
12. Joining the navy has been Kofi's dream since childhood.
13. Adding and subtracting are necessary in division problems.

14. Mark began updating his existing computer file.
15. Rayna finished reading the book.
16. Leading the group is a harder job than I first thought.
17. Finding a bone in my fish sandwich caused me to lose my appetite.
18. Kareem studied fencing at the local gym.
19. Stimulating the frog's leg was the first step in the biology lab procedure.
20. Shedding tears can be a sign of both joy and sorrow.
21. Dana went to the studio to learn dancing.
22. Drinking and driving is a dangerous activity.
23. Eating is allowed only in the lobby.
24. Threading a needle takes steady hands.
25. Trading baseball cards is Elena's favorite hobby.
26. Coming home before ten is a house rule that Kenji never broke.
27. The mosquitoes finally stopped biting.
28. Wearing the itchy sweater bothered Maria.
29. The team started playing.
30. Uncle Howard enjoyed catching that large fish.
31. Winning the game was taking precedence.
32. Flying jets is a career I am considering.
33. The chopped tree began falling.
34. Carving the Thanksgiving turkey has been Grandpa's job for years.
35. I like learning about endangered species.
36. Shrinking the company's debt has been on the president's mind.
37. Creeping across the backyard is how my cat is sneaking up on birds.
38. Swimming the backstroke was the specialty of the athlete.
39. I enjoyed seeing my old friend.
40. I accept cleaning the garage as my weekend chore.

Lesson 46

Noun Clauses

A **noun clause** is a subordinate clause used as a noun. It may serve as a subject, direct object, predicate noun, or object of a preposition.

Whoever rides in a car should wear seat belts. (subject)

Claude said **that he is watching television**. (direct object)

Listening to tapes is **how I learned Spanish**. (predicate noun)

Please listen to **what the director says**. (object of a preposition)

WORDS THAT INTRODUCE NOUN CLAUSES

how	what	where	who	whomever
however	whatever	which	whom	whose
that	when	whichever	whoever	why

► **Exercise 1** Draw one line under each noun clause. Draw a second line under each word that introduces a noun clause.

You can read whichever book you like.

1. City Hall is where the parade begins.
2. I don't know which one I should choose.
3. Jamaal's little sister likes to do whatever he does.
4. When you reach the next grade level depends on how well you study.
5. Whoever needs a new locker should sign the sheet outside the office.
6. Our science teacher explained why the sun turns shades of pink and red at sunset.
7. The clerk said that this was the last sweatshirt in stock.
8. Can you please demonstrate how this computer works?
9. New York is where people of many nationalities live.
10. José couldn't add any facts to what had already been said.
11. However you want to arrange the living room furniture is okay with me.
12. He told me what he wanted for his birthday.
13. Whatever you want to eat is fine with me.
14. Do you remember when you tried to throw the ball all the way to home plate?

- _____ 25. Miette enjoys taking long walks in the country.
- _____ 26. Reading improves your vocabulary.
- _____ 27. My dog finally stopped howling.
- _____ 28. Digesting dairy products is a problem for some people.
- _____ 29. Following the rules in any sport is the responsibility of the players.
- _____ 30. Sleeping on the cold, hard ground was never Li Cheng's idea of fun.
- _____ 31. Do you know that your job will require driving a car?
- _____ 32. Pushing or shoving in the lunch line will not be tolerated.
- _____ 33. Hauling logs from the river to the sawmill was Ellen's part-time job.
- _____ 34. The staff enjoyed meeting in the kitchen with Chef Albert.
- _____ 35. Calling long distance is much more economical these days than in our grandparents' era.
- _____ 36. Whistling a tune is a sign of both happiness and nervousness.
- _____ 37. The whistling valve brought us a warning.
- _____ 38. Drumming is an old term for selling goods.
- _____ 39. Speaking clearly was the teacher's best quality.
- _____ 40. The squeaking of the chairs bothered everyone in the class.

► **Writing Link** Write a paragraph about learning to ride a bicycle. Use at least five gerunds in your description.

Lesson 49**Infinitives and Infinitive Phrases**

An **infinitive** is a verb form that uses the word *to* followed by the base form of a verb. It often functions as a noun, as either a subject or a direct object. An infinitive can also function as an adjective or adverb. When *to* is used as part of an infinitive, it is not a preposition.

To fly has been a dream of humans since ancient times. (infinitive as subject)

Most people like **to sing**. (infinitive as direct object)

We rode the bus **to the mall**. (prepositional phrase)

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

To keep one's promise is a sign of good character. (infinitive phrase)

► **Exercise 1 Underline each infinitive or infinitive phrase.**

I prefer to listen to music in my room.

1. Gary is practicing to become the best player ever.
2. The coach wants us to achieve good results.
3. We need to train our dog systematically.
4. The instructor asked me to stop the car.
5. To chew gum can be fun.
6. To keep the lead is difficult.
7. Who wants to go to the zoo?
8. The restaurant wants to satisfy its customers.
9. Ever since childhood, to train dolphins was her goal.
10. Harry wanted to begin the game on a good footing.
11. To ring the bell was her job.
12. His aunt wanted to buy him the book.
13. To feed a pet can lift one's spirits.
14. To sing in a rock band was Ann's goal.

15. To help Ben prepare the meal involves giving the cookbook to him.
16. My dog loves to ride in the car.
17. To think of the best way to the stadium was difficult.
18. Who wants to sit beside Grandma?
19. Before dinner, my father likes to ride his exercise bike.
20. To win the game would be a sweet victory.
21. On his way to school, Beka needs to make a left-hand turn.
22. To teach a class can be both difficult and fun.
23. To cook dinner will not take long.
24. To swing is a child's delight.
25. Sonia wants to pay for the ice cream.
26. Pedro loves to pop popcorn after school.
27. The lions hoped to spring at the hyenas.
28. To leave before the end of the show was rude.
29. To run in the Olympics was Jesu's dream.
30. To grow older is a natural part of life.
31. We all need to eat nutritious food.
32. The president proposed to cut taxes.
33. To do that math problem was our homework.
34. To know the secret is the key.
35. Who volunteers to drive to the movie?
36. The officer told the students to be careful crossing the intersection.
37. Stuart learned to write poetry from his English teacher.
38. Feng Ying likes to grow geraniums in the window box.
39. To rise to the top is an energetic goal.
40. Barbie's goal is to win a gold medal at the Special Olympics.

► **Exercise 2** Underline each infinitive or infinitive phrase. Write in the blank its use in the sentence: *S* for subject or *DO* for direct object.

DO I need to finish my homework.

- _____ 1. I love to hug my collie.
- _____ 2. To act on a Broadway stage is one of Jenny's fondest dreams.
- _____ 3. To become a concert pianist requires hours of practice every day.
- _____ 4. To bake the perfect raspberry pie was one of Grandpa's talents.
- _____ 5. José needed to get his car at the gas station.
- _____ 6. Athletes must learn to lose gracefully.
- _____ 7. To reach the highest level in the video game is the purpose of finding the hidden passage.
- _____ 8. To write the article for the school paper took talent.
- _____ 9. To win the game is a real challenge.
- _____ 10. Abdul hoped to find pictures of his great-grandparents.
- _____ 11. We need to arrive at least two hours early.
- _____ 12. Dawit and Carmen wanted to raise the flag at the opening ceremonies.
- _____ 13. To leave before the storm would be a smart idea.
- _____ 14. The coaches planned to test the team's endurance.
- _____ 15. To eat more than one piece of pie is greedy.
- _____ 16. Micah and Jamal have learned to finish their homework before bedtime.
- _____ 17. Wanting only a laugh, Enrique never intended to insult anyone.
- _____ 18. The constant dripping of the faucet threatened to drive him insane.
- _____ 19. To own real estate requires saving much money.
- _____ 20. To run all the way to the edge of the park is exhausting.
- _____ 21. All the boys wanted to join the choir.
- _____ 22. I am trying to find photos of whales.
- _____ 23. To win a soccer match takes teamwork.
- _____ 24. To teach a large class requires much patience.

- _____ 25. Would Carlos like to visit his uncle in Oregon?
- _____ 26. The referee told the booth to restart the game clock.
- _____ 27. To be sure before proceeding may lessen problems later.
- _____ 28. To change schools can be a scary experience.
- _____ 29. Growing a good crop of tomatoes proves to be time consuming.
- _____ 30. The poet likes to read his poems at the neighborhood bookstore.
- _____ 31. To organize a family reunion demands a great amount of planning.
- _____ 32. Ever since she can remember, Marilyn has wanted to become a country-western singer.
- _____ 33. While no one liked to cook, everyone liked to eat.
- _____ 34. To serve and to lead were the president's wishes.
- _____ 35. In response to public opinion, the council decided to hire seven new police officers.
- _____ 36. To find the correct answer is not always easy.
- _____ 37. Because she was so hungry, Suchin wanted to get a sandwich.
- _____ 38. Brushing your teeth with baking soda helps to clean them.
- _____ 39. Robin wanted to mail the package, but she needed more postage.
- _____ 40. To match Dan's ability is certainly an accomplishment.

► **Writing Link** Write a paragraph about learning to swim. Include at least six infinitives.



Unit 8 Review

► **Exercise 1** Write in the blank *part.* (participle), *ger.* (gerund), or *inf.* (infinitive) to identify the italicized word or words.

- part. The *unfinished* pizza remained on the table.
- _____ 1. *Gazing* at the sky, Emil imagined he could fly.
 - _____ 2. For her birthday, Will is *giving* his sister a new tape player.
 - _____ 3. *Riding* was the most popular activity at camp except for swimming.
 - _____ 4. *To make* the team requires both coordination and speed.
 - _____ 5. The entire family enjoys *playing* tennis.
 - _____ 6. Their new recording is *selling* very well.
 - _____ 7. Marion had *prepared* for the piano recital.
 - _____ 8. The *worried* parents finally found the boy.
 - _____ 9. The cousins all agreed *to write* to each other.
 - _____ 10. We enjoy *singing* folk songs.
 - _____ 11. They planned *to make* the variety show an annual event.
 - _____ 12. We couldn't get out because of the car *parked* behind us.
 - _____ 13. Where did you learn *to repair* your bicycle?
 - _____ 14. *Bounding* down the stairway, the dog greeted its master.
 - _____ 15. *Feeding* the cats is Meg's daily chore.
 - _____ 16. The carriage *bouncing* along the street was a collector's item.
 - _____ 17. I began *jogging* around the track every day.
 - _____ 18. *To err* is human.
 - _____ 19. *Reading* between the lines is a hidden talent.
 - _____ 20. Arthur found the cow *grazing* in the neighbor's vegetable garden.

Cumulative Review: Units 1–8

► **Exercise 1** Underline each prepositional phrase. Write *adj.* (adjective) or *adv.* (adverb) in the blank to identify the kind of phrase. Circle each coordinating, correlative, and subordinating conjunction.

adj. The key to the neighbor's house was missing. (but) Derek had a spare.

- _____ 1. In the morning she was tired and cranky.
- _____ 2. I not only can remember the name of that substitute teacher, but also can remember what he wore that day.
- _____ 3. The realtor would not wait inside the house because it was spooky.
- _____ 4. The hat on the elderly lady's head was both bizarre and charming.
- _____ 5. Our swingset and birdbath were damaged in yesterday's storm.
- _____ 6. The shark swam around the coral reef when the fishing boat appeared.
- _____ 7. Both strawberries and bananas are used in the fruit salad.
- _____ 8. The first room on the left is yours.
- _____ 9. The people became quiet before the golfer putted on the green.
- _____ 10. All of the construction workers wore yellow hard hats and heavy work boots.
- _____ 11. The sign in the front yard was neither correct nor legible.
- _____ 12. My new CD player will be ready by Monday or Tuesday.
- _____ 13. I looked into the classroom but saw nobody I knew.
- _____ 14. Ryan never drinks iced tea without lemon and sugar.
- _____ 15. They went fishing during the early morning hours since the weather was calmer.
- _____ 16. The wooden fence between these houses needs nails and paint.
- _____ 17. Although Mr. Wang coached the soccer team, most of his time was spent teaching health and physical education.
- _____ 18. Elizabeth was brave during the crisis, but she panicked later.
- _____ 19. Under the bed were a worn slipper and a giant dust ball.
- _____ 20. The lanky man with the black hair and the bushy beard is our math teacher.

► **Exercise 2** Write *con.* (concrete), *abst.* (abstract), *col.* (collective), or *comp.* (compound) in the blank to identify the type of noun in *italics*. Some nouns will fit more than one category.

- | | |
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| _____

_____ | <u>con., col.</u> The <i>team</i> from Wilson Junior High won the debate.

1. Checkers is one of the world's oldest board <i>games</i> .
2. Lianna Black had the original <i>idea</i> for the project.
3. Our Siamese cat won a <i>blue ribbon</i> at last month's show.
4. Many people are interested in learning about their <i>past</i> .
5. The <i>crowd</i> at the State Theater anxiously awaited the opening performance.
6. Cole knew it was <i>time</i> to clean his room when he could no longer see his carpet.
7. My best friend, Jen, hates <i>peanut butter</i> .
8. In the 1960s <i>audiences</i> were out of control at the Beatles' concerts.
9. Our school library sold <i>bookmarks</i> to raise money for improvements.
10. Alissa used her mechanical <i>skill</i> to fix her sister's bike.
11. The <i>committee</i> announced its decision to fire the district manager.
12. The jury listened carefully to the <i>cross-examination</i> of the witness.
13. Ben's <i>hope</i> is that he will be able to visit Washington, D.C.
14. Ms. Walker always stressed <i>creativity</i> for our journal assignments.
15. Clam chowder is a popular soup in <i>New England</i> .
16. The class voted on which <i>videotape</i> to watch.
17. Stan called the <i>electrician</i> to connect the wiring in the basement.
18. As the sky began to darken, the <i>parade</i> proceeded down Main Street.
19. We saw that the little boy was in <i>danger</i> , so we called the police.
20. During the peaceful protest, the courthouse steps were bathed in <i>candlelight</i> . |
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► **Exercise 3** Underline the verbal or verbal phrase. In the blank, write *ger.* (gerund), *part.* (participle), or *inf.* (infinitive).

ger. Moving to Williamsburg sparked Nicole's interest in history.

- _____ 1. Will writing to the publisher have any effect?
- _____ 2. Patches prefers to eat his dog food at room temperature.
- _____ 3. The Hiking Club discovered the remains of a log cabin destroyed by fire.
- _____ 4. Lindsay needed the counselor to advise her on the best courses.
- _____ 5. My grandmother enjoys golfing on the weekends.
- _____ 6. Cleaning the roadsides not only helps the environment but also saves money for the highway department.
- _____ 7. Catered by professionals, the banquet was a flawless success.
- _____ 8. Applauding enthusiastically, the audience prompted another curtain call.
- _____ 9. Pedro, trying to be brave, opened the door to the shed and went inside.
- _____ 10. Obedience schools help to train owners as well as their dogs.
- _____ 11. John tried painting a mural on the wall.
- _____ 12. Leading the race for student council made Tommy Han happy.
- _____ 13. A worthwhile use of free time is volunteering at the community's soup kitchen.
- _____ 14. Inching its way through the driving snow, the taxi delivered my grandparents from the airport.
- _____ 15. Scuba diving is a favorite sport in Bermuda.
- _____ 16. Marlin plans to study marine biology in college.
- _____ 17. The campers staying in the Will-o'-the-Wisp Cabins will wash the dishes tonight.
- _____ 18. I like to compose silly song lyrics.
- _____ 19. Typing 65 wpm, Vicki quickly finished her history paper.
- _____ 20. To win first chair in the flute section, Julia practiced every day after school.