

**Let's Noun
Some Verbs:
Telling the
Difference
Between
Participles and
Gerunds**

Presented by Deanna Bennett

What is a participle?

participle noun



par·ti·ci·ple | \ 'pär-tə-si-pəl , *Britain also* pär-'ti-si-pəl, pər-, pə- \

Definition of *participle*

: a word having the characteristics of both verb and adjective

especially : an English verbal form that has the function of an adjective and at the same time shows such verbal features as tense and voice and capacity to take an object

// In "the finished product," the word "finished" is a *participle* formed from the verb "finish."

Examples of participles

Walking into the field, Elizabeth Bennet met Mr. Darcy.

Participle

Hava was going to town this morning.

Participle

I can't talk, right now I'm writing a letter to my mother.

Participle

More examples of participles

The plot of that movie was confusing.

Participle

But it's an amazing film!

Participle

I also found it boring.

Participle

Oh yes, more participles!

Hava was walking to a dazzling new boutique.

Participle

Participle

Ted is returning the movie because it was too frightening

Participle

Participle

for the kids.

What is a gerund?

gerund noun



Save Word

ger·und | \ 'jer-ənd , 'je-rənd \

Definition of *gerund*

- 1 : a verbal noun in Latin that expresses generalized or uncompleted action
- 2 : any of several linguistic forms analogous to the Latin gerund in languages other than Latin

especially : the English verbal noun ending in *-ing* that has the function of a substantive and at the same time shows the verbal features of tense, voice, and capacity to take adverbial qualifiers and to govern (see GOVERN sense 4) objects



Examples of gerunds

Smoking kills.

Gerund

Your knitting is divine!

Gerund

He loves surfing, but prefers swimming.

Gerund

Gerund

She loves the singing in that play.

Gerund

Now put it all together!

A gerund has a confusing -ING ending.

She is Participle running the new Gerund building.

Her Participle knitting has been Gerund unraveling at the edges.

Gerund Swimming is great but can you write an amazing college Participle application about it?

Let's make it interesting

She is washing the washing in the washing
machine.

Participle

Gerund

Potentially
either???

They are swimming in the swimming pool to
learn about swimming.

Participle

Gerund

Gerund

The easy, no muss no fuss way to differentiate between participles and gerunds...

The completely foolproof secret you've been waiting for...



References

Merriam-Webster. (n.d.). Gerund. In *Merriam-Webster.com dictionary*. Retrieved April 18, 2021, from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/gerund>

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