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

## What is a participle?

## participle noun



### 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.

<u>Participle</u>

Hava was going to town this morning.

**Participle** 

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

<u>Participle</u>

### More examples of participles

The plot of that movie was confusing.

**Participle** 

But it's an amazing film!

**Participle** 

I also found it boring.

<u>Participle</u>

## Oh yes, more participles!

Hava was walking to a dazzling new boutique.

<u>Participle</u> <u>P</u>

<u>Participle</u>

Ted is returning the movie because it was too frightening

<u>Participle</u>

<u>Participle</u>

for the kids.

# What is a gerund? gerund noun



ger·und | \'jer-ənd →, 'je-rənd \

#### Definition of gerund

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

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



### **Examples of gerunds**

Smoking kills.

<u>Gerund</u>

Your knitting is divine!

Gerund

He loves surfing, but prefers swimming.

**Gerund** 

Gerund

She loves the singing in that play.

<u>Gerund</u>

## Now put it all together!

A gerund has a confusing -ING ending.

Participle ??? Gerund

She is running the new building.

<u>Participle</u> <u>Gerund</u>

Her knitting has been unraveling at the edges.

Gerund <u>Participle</u>

Swimming is great but can you write an amazing college

Gerund application about it?

Participle

## Let's make it interesting

She is washing the washing in the washing

Participle

Gerund

Potentially

either???

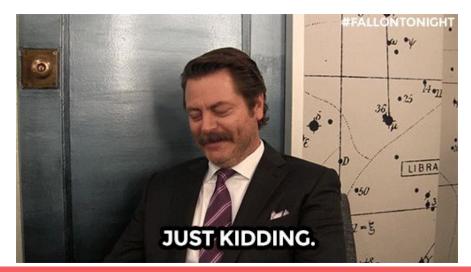
They are swimming in the swimming pool to Participle Gerund

learn about swimming.

<u>Gerund</u>

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### References

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