

Verbals are verbs that function as other parts of speech. They are participles, gerunds, and infinitives.

1. Participles are verbs that function as **adjectives**. They answer the question *which one?* Or *what kind?*

- The winning team shook hands with the defeated team.
- The blazing sun melted the frozen pond.

Present participles end in *-ing*, while **past participles** end irregularly (*-n, -t, -en, -ed*)

- Present: clinging, running, sinking
- Past: reserved, buried, worn, bent

Participial phrases include a participle and the words that make up its meaning.

- The instructions written in French were impossible to read.
- The beans frozen last summer tasted nice in the stew.
- The dog wearing the red collar belongs to my neighbor.

2. Gerunds are verbs that end in *-ing* and function like a **noun**. They can be used in the same way a noun can be used (direct object, appositive, etc.)

- Pointing is impolite. (Gerund as a subject noun.)
- Pam likes skating. (Gerund as a direct object.)
- Thomas has a new major, accounting. (Gerund as an appositive.)

A **gerund phrase** includes the gerund and the word it complements.

- Painting landscapes is her talent.
- His parents encouraged his studying chemistry.
- Paul's winning the tournament was a surprise.

3. Infinitives are verbs that begin with the word *to* and **can be used as a noun, adjective, or adverb**.

- Everyone should learn to cook.
- This will be expensive to repair.
- Do you have to leave?

Splitting infinitives means an adverb has been inserted between *to* and the *verb*. A perfect example comes from the intro to Star Trek - "to boldly go" is a split infinitive. (Instead of "to go boldly")