

1. A **Gerund** is the present participle form of a verb that acts as a noun.

It always ends in '-ing'.

e.g. walking, thinking, eating

i. Reading helps you to learn English.

ii. Her favourite hobby is swimming.

iii. I enjoy dancing in the rain.

iv. I am tired of writing these long answers. (used after a preposition)

2. A **Participle** is a form of verb that acts as an adjective or a verb. Participles usually add to the description of a noun in the sentence.

Present Participles end in 'ing'

e.g. sleeping, eating, studying, cooking

Past participles end either in 'en' or 'ed'

e.g. broken, swollen, eaten, wronged

i. She is a sleeping beauty.

ii. The buzzing sound of the cicadas kept Sheela awake all night.

iii. A lying man ought to be punished.

iv. She swept away the fallen leaves.

3. An **Infinitive** is the verb form that has 'to' at the beginning.

It is the simplest verb form that functions as a noun and not as a verb.

e.g. to sit, to believe, to swim, to write

i. They asked me to wait a little longer.

ii. It is important to obey the orders of the seniors.

iii. To understand the concepts better, a presentation was created.

Solved Examples

1. Identify whether the underlined word is a Gerund or a Present/Past Participle in the following sentences.

i. Walking is good for a person's health.

Ans: Walking – Gerund

ii. My father's booming voice was heard from afar.

Ans: booming – Present Participle

iii. Childbearing is now more of a choice than a norm.

Ans: Childbearing – Gerund

iv. The laughing gas that spread in the room had all of us in splits of laughter.

Ans: laughing – Present Participle

v. He looked at the broken vase in shock.

Ans: broken – Past Participle

vi. The bag was filled with rotten tomatoes.

Ans: rotten – Past Participle

vii. Shutting out people for a while is often what lonely individuals do.

Ans: Shutting – Gerund

viii. His good health was all attributed to regular swimming.

Ans: swimming – Gerund

ix. These days, cycling is a very eco-friendly travel option.

Ans: cycling – Gerund

x. Out of my many hobbies one is dancing.

Ans: dancing – Gerund

xi. I enjoy cooking by myself.

Ans: cooking – Gerund

xii. Arriving early, Sheila sat in the front row.

Ans: Arriving – Present Participle

xiii. Kiran ought to taking singing lessons.

Ans: singing – Present Participle

xiv. Arnav's smiling face reminded her of her own son who was miles away.

Ans: smiling – Present Participle

2. Identify the Infinitives in the following sentences:

i. Sameera decided to rise from her misery and confidently take on the world.

Ans: to rise – Infinitive

ii. Early to bed and early to rise makes a person healthy, wealthy and wise.

Ans: to bed, to rise – Infinitives

iii. We all must contribute to make this program a grand success.

Ans: to make – Infinitive

iv. Their only ambition in life was to eat, eat and just eat.

Ans: to eat – Infinitive

v. We decided to go out as everyone was feeling bored.

Ans: to go – Infinitive

vi. To sing is my little boy's dream.

Ans: To sing – Infinitive

vii. She wanted her friend to say something.

Ans: to say – Infinitive

viii. I would like to thank you for treating me to a delicious lunch.

Ans: to thank – Infinitive

ix. I forgot to take my medicines for cholesterol today.

Ans: to take – Infinitive

x. Aisha wanted her mother to come for the show.

Ans: to come – Infinitive

Practice Exercise

1. Identify whether the underlined word is a Gerund or a Participle in the following sentences.

i. It was freezing cold.

ii. Smoking often leads to cancer of the lungs.

iii. Dinesh swum to the shore with his sister saddled to his back.

iv. The crying baby was carried by its father.

v. Running is good for the body.

vi. Sushmita loved eating but hated cooking.

vii. I've already eaten the food that mother had packed for lunch.

viii. Waving their hands, the crowd welcomed the winners.

ix. Stolen wealth cannot buy happiness.

x. Fallen stars eventually fade away into oblivion.

xi. My favourite pastime is singing.

xii. Reading is a good exercise for the mind.

xiii. Playing the flute is his passion.

xiv. Can you help me fix the leaning column of books?

xv. The torn piece of paper is the receipt from the shop we visited yesterday.

2. Identify the infinitives in the following sentences:

i. Seeing the news, Soham suddenly got up to speak to his parents.

ii. Tanmay glared at little Soni just to scare her away.

iii. Our school camp was to go to Lonavla to experience the pristine beauty of the mountains.

iv. 'To make hay while the sun shines' is a famous proverb.

v. I have told you a million times to wash your hands before eating, haven't I?

vi. Do you promise to tell the truth in the court today?

vii. The company decided to treat everyone to a lavish dinner.

viii. Reema failed to reach office on time.

ix. I volunteered to help the orphans at the orphanage.

x. It is pleasant to listen to the sound of chirping birds early in the morning.

Answer Key

1.

i. freezing – Present Participle

ii. smoking – Gerund

iii. swum, saddled – Past Participles

iv. crying – Present Participle

v. Running – Gerund

vi. eating – Gerund

vii. eaten – Past Participle

viii. Waving – Present Participle

ix. Stolen – Past Participle

x. fallen – Past Participle

xi. singing – Gerund

xii. Reading – Gerund

xiii. Playing – Gerund

xiv. leaning – Present Participle

xv. torn – Past Participle

2.

i. to speak – Infinitive

ii. to go, to experience – Infinitives

iii. to scare – Infinitive

iv. to make – Infinitive

v. to wash – Infinitive

vi. to tell – Infinitive

vii. to treat – Infinitive

viii. to reach – Infinitive

ix. to help – Infinitive

x. to listen – Infinitive