

VERBALS

Verb forms that no longer function as main verbs, but rather as other parts of speech. Nevertheless, verbals retain some of their verb heritage and abilities.

- Gerunds. Always end in -ing.
Always function as nouns
Form phrases with objects or complements and with modifiers
- Participles. End in -ing, -ed, -en,
and sometimes are completely irregular
Always function as adjectives
Form phrases with objects or complements and with modifiers
- Infinitives. Normally are signaled by “to” plus the verb form,
although sometimes the “to” is missing
Function as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs
Form phrases with objects or complements and with modifiers; also may have pseudo subjects (and if so, the pseudo subject is in the object case)
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1. Laughing is the best medicine.

2. Laughing in a movie theater can interrupt the viewing.

3. Howling dogs are no laughing matter.

4. After spying, agents often begin liking their quarry.

5. Entertaining their friends, the glee club sang another round of
“Sweet Caroline.”

5. Sneaking agents sometimes wear worn or abraded sneakers.

6. A broken promise can delight bewitched young elves.

7. To keep broken promises builds honor.

8. To wear worn sneakers enables spies to wear fashionable footwear.

9. Acting in an unexpected way, they attempted to blend in with the common folk.

10. To do that sort of thing, you need to plan your plans carefully.

10a. You need to plan your plans carefully to do that sort of thing.

11. Using suspenders to provide support on known replica trousers seemed natural to the singing and sewing tailor.

11a. To the singing and sewing tailor, using suspenders to provide support on known replica trousers seemed natural.