Verbs and Verbals

A verb is a word that expresses action or state of being. Every English sentence must contain at least one verb. No verb = no sentence.

Directions: Underline the verb(s) in the following sentences. Tell whether each one expresses action or state of being.

1. A canary flew through the window.
2. Alfred is a scientist.
3. Are the Millers from Canada?
4. Su-Jin plays the cello.
5. The cat jumped onto the fence.
6. That cake tastes good.
7. The boys are playing in the park.
8. Did you do your homework?
9. Min-Ho wasn’t at school yesterday.
10. I haven’t eaten dinner yet.
11. Those roses look beautiful.
12. Joon-Gu was an elementary school student in January, but is a middle school student now.

A verbal looks like a verb, but functions as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb in a sentence.

Examples:
1. Swimming is fun. (Verbal ➔ noun)
2. Tom goes to the beach to swim. (Verbal ➔ adverb)
3. Sue is in the swimming pool. (Verbal ➔ adjective)

Directions: Underline the verbal phrases in the following sentences.

1. Playing the guitar is a lot of fun.
2. We went to the department store to buy some new clothes.
3. Min-Hui has started taking piano lessons again.
4. Did you remember to do your homework?
5. I need a new pair of running shoes.
There are three types of verbals:

(1) A **gerund** ends in -ing and functions as a **noun**.

**Examples:**
- Jogging is good for your health.
- I went **shopping** Saturday.

(2) A **participle** usually ends in -ing or -ed. (Participles made from irregular verbs are an exception.) Participles function as adjectives.

**Examples:**
- Have you ever seen a **dancing** monkey?
- The **tired** child fell asleep in the car.
- A **broken** pencil lay on the floor.

(3) An **infinitive** consists of the word “to,” followed by an infinitive form. It may function as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb.

**Examples:**
- You need **to study** for the test.
- Su-Bin stopped **to buy** a snack.
- I have homework **to finish** before class.

**Directions:** Underline the verbal phrases in the following sentences, then tell whether each one is a **gerund**, a **participle**, or an **infinitive**.

1. He got in trouble for cheating on the test.
2. Everyone stopped to stare at the screaming child.
3. Copying your friend’s homework is wrong.
4. Did you buy a new jogging suit?
5. It’s time to go home.
6. The crying baby had a wet diaper.
7. My father likes to drive fast.
8. We went to see a movie this past weekend.
9. Playing tennis can be a good form of exercise.
10. Stop fighting with your sister!
11. We heard the neighbor’s dog barking all night.
12. I need to buy a new jacket.