

Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

Identifying Verbals

What is a **verbal**? Verbals can be tricky. A verbal is a verb masquerading as another part of speech; it's a verb in disguise. **Gerunds, participles, and infinitives** are all verbals.

Examples

A **gerund** is a verb form ending in **-ing** that is used as a noun.

Shopping is excellent recreation.

(The noun **shopping** is the subject of this sentence.)

A **participle** is a verb form ending in **-ed** or **-ing** that is used as an adjective.

The butterfly fluttering near the daisy is a monarch.

(The adjective **fluttering** modifies "butterfly.")

An **infinitive** is a verb form introduced by the word "**to**" that can be used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb.

I plan to read a book on Saturday.

(The infinitive **to read** is a noun used as a direct object)

Directions: In the following paragraph, verbals are underlined. Above each of these words, identify what kind of verbal it is—gerund, participle, or infinitive. The first one has been done for you.

Tiffany, bored with the usual presents, asked for a pet for her birthday. Walking a dog of her own had been her dream for a long time. A poodle puppy wagging its tail in a pet store caught her eye. Hoping for this pet, Tiffany went to the store every day to look at the beloved pup. On her birthday, Tiffany and her mom hurried to the store to buy the poodle. Tiffany named the excited puppy Inglebert, which means "unusually intelligent." Playing fetch and teaching Inglebert new tricks now take up much of Tiffany's time.