

Name _____

Date _____

Infinitive Phrases and Gerund Phrases

Definition

Infinitive phrases begin with an infinitive (to + verb) and include any modifiers or objects. **Gerund phrases** begin with a gerund (verb + ing) functioning as a noun and include any modifiers or objects. Both serve as nouns, but infinitives can also function as adjectives or adverbs.

Infinitive Phrases

Function	Example	Structure
As subject	"To win the championship is her goal."	to + verb + modifiers/objects
As direct object	"She wants to finish early."	to + verb + modifiers
As adjective	"They gave her tools to complete the project."	to + verb + modifiers/objects

Gerund Phrases

Function	Example	Structure
As subject	"Swimming laps improves endurance."	verb + ing + modifiers/objects
As direct object	"She enjoys reading mysteries."	verb + ing + modifiers/objects
As object of preposition	"They talked about traveling abroad."	verb + ing + modifiers

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Part 1: Multiple Choice Questions

Identify whether the underlined phrase is an infinitive phrase or a gerund phrase.

1. To align the pyramid precisely with the stars was a remarkable achievement of ancient Egyptian engineers.

- a) infinitive phrase
- b) gerund phrase
- c) participial phrase
- d) prepositional phrase

2. Moving massive limestone blocks required innovative transportation methods.

- a) infinitive phrase
- b) gerund phrase
- c) participial phrase
- d) prepositional phrase

3. The ancient Egyptians developed tools to cut the stone blocks with amazing precision.

- a) infinitive phrase
- b) gerund phrase
- c) participial phrase
- d) prepositional phrase

4. Using copper chisels and stone hammers was the primary method for shaping the limestone blocks.

- a) infinitive phrase
- b) gerund phrase
- c) participial phrase
- d) prepositional phrase

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5. The workers needed to transport the stones up ramps during construction.

- a) infinitive phrase
- b) gerund phrase
- c) participial phrase
- d) prepositional phrase

Part 2: Fill in the Blank

Complete each sentence with either an infinitive phrase or a gerund phrase as indicated.

1. _____ (infinitive phrase) allowed the Egyptians to build such precisely aligned structures.

2. _____ (gerund phrase) was a critical skill for the ancient masons who cut the stones.

3. The purpose of the internal chambers was _____ (infinitive phrase).

4. _____ (gerund phrase) helped workers move the massive stone blocks into position.

5. Architects needed _____ (infinitive phrase) before construction could begin.

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Infinitive Phrases and Gerund Phrases – Answer Key**Part 1: Multiple Choice Questions**

1. a) infinitive phrase
2. b) gerund phrase
3. a) infinitive phrase
4. b) gerund phrase
5. a) infinitive phrase

Part 2: Fill in the Blank**Possible answers include:**

1. (infinitive phrase) To use astronomical observations / To measure with specialized tools / To calculate precise angles
2. (gerund phrase) Measuring exact angles / Polishing smooth surfaces / Creating perfect right angles
3. (infinitive phrase) to house the pharaoh's remains / to store valuable treasures / to represent the path to the afterlife
4. (gerund phrase) Utilizing wooden sledges / Building temporary ramps / Applying water to reduce friction
5. (infinitive phrase) to draw detailed plans / to calculate the structure's dimensions / to determine the proper orientation