

Name _____

Date _____

Gerunds, Participles, and Infinitives

Definition

Gerunds, participles, and infinitives are verbals—verb forms that function as other parts of speech. Gerunds end in -ing and function as nouns. Participles function as adjectives and come in present (-ing) or past (-ed, -en) forms. Infinitives consist of "to" plus a verb base form.

Example

Verbal Type	Form	Example	Function
Gerund	verb + -ing	Swimming is good exercise.	Noun (subject)
Present Participle	verb + -ing	The crying baby needed attention.	Adjective (modifies "baby")
Past Participle	verb + -ed/-en	The broken window let in cold air.	Adjective (modifies "window")
Infinitive	to + verb	She wants to study medicine.	Noun (direct object)

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Part 1: Multiple Choice Questions

Identify whether the underlined verbal in each sentence is a gerund, participle, or infinitive.

1. Studying the collision between the Indian and Eurasian plates helps scientists understand mountain formation.

- a) gerund
- b) participle
- c) infinitive
- d) none of the above

2. The colliding tectonic plates created enormous pressure that forced the Earth's crust upward.

- a) gerund
- b) participle
- c) infinitive
- d) none of the above

3. Scientists want to measure the ongoing uplift of the Himalayan mountain range each year.

- a) gerund
- b) participle
- c) infinitive
- d) none of the above

4. The fractured rock layers reveal the immense forces at work during mountain building.

- a) gerund
- b) participle
- c) infinitive
- d) none of the above

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5. To understand plate tectonics, geologists study earthquake patterns along the mountain range.

- a) gerund
- b) participle
- c) infinitive
- d) none of the above

Part 2: Fill in the Blank

Complete each sentence with the appropriate verbal form (gerund, participle, or infinitive) as indicated in parentheses.

1. _____ (gerund form of "compress") sedimentary rocks under extreme pressure transforms them into metamorphic rocks in the Himalayas.

2. The _____ (past participle form of "fold") layers of rock demonstrate the powerful forces of continental collision.

3. The Indian plate continues _____ (infinitive form of "move") northward at approximately 5 centimeters per year.

4. _____ (present participle form of "rise") at an average rate of 1 centimeter annually, the Himalayas are still growing today.

5. Geologists hope _____ (infinitive form of "collect") more data about the rate of Himalayan uplift in the future.

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Gerunds, Participles, and Infinitives – Answer Key**Answer Key****Part 1: Multiple Choice Questions**

1. a) gerund ("Studying" functions as a noun serving as the subject of the sentence)
2. b) participle ("colliding" functions as an adjective describing "tectonic plates")
3. c) infinitive ("to measure" follows the verb "want" and functions as a direct object)
4. b) participle ("fractured" is a past participle functioning as an adjective describing "rock layers")
5. c) infinitive ("To understand" functions as an adverbial phrase expressing purpose)

Part 2: Fill in the Blank

1. Compressing (gerund functioning as the subject)
2. folded (past participle functioning as an adjective describing "layers")
3. to move (infinitive following the verb "continues")
4. Rising (present participle functioning as an adjective describing the Himalayas)
5. to collect (infinitive following the verb "hope")