

Name _____

Date _____

Verbal Phrases

Definition

Verbal phrases are groups of words centered around a verbal (a verb form functioning as a different part of speech). These include the verbal and any modifiers, complements, or objects that accompany it.

Example

Type	Example	Functions As	Structure
Gerund phrase	"Swimming in the ocean is her favorite activity."	Noun (subject)	Verb + ing form with modifiers
Infinitive phrase	"She wants to finish the project early."	Noun (direct object)	To + verb with modifiers
Participial phrase	"Exhausted from the long journey, we finally arrived home."	Adjective (modifies "we")	Past/present participle with modifiers

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PART 1: Identify the Type of Verbal Phrase

Identify whether each underlined verbal phrase is a gerund phrase (G), participial phrase (P), or infinitive phrase (I).

1. ____ Using advanced irrigation techniques, the Aztecs transformed swampland into productive farmland.
2. ____ The Aztec farmers worked hard to increase crop yields in their chinampas.
3. ____ Planting multiple crops together was a sustainable farming practice of the Aztecs.
4. ____ The seeds, harvested from previous seasons, were carefully stored in clay containers.
5. ____ The Aztecs needed to develop innovative agricultural methods due to their island location.

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PART 2: Function of Verbal Phrases

Identify the function of each underlined verbal phrase in the sentence. Choose from: subject, direct object, indirect object, object of preposition, adjective, or adverb.

1. The Aztec goal was to create artificial islands for farming.

Function: _____

2. Floating on the lake surface, the chinampas provided fertile soil for crops.

Function: _____

3. Aztec farmers enjoyed working with the nutrient-rich mud from lake bottoms.

Function: _____

4. The community focused on maintaining the complex chinampa system.

Function: _____

5. Their techniques for irrigating crops during dry seasons were remarkably effective.

Function: _____

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PART 3: Complete with the Correct Verbal Phrase

Choose the most appropriate verbal phrase from the options to complete each sentence.

1. Aztec farmers spent hours daily _____.
 - a) to tend their chinampa gardens
 - b) tending their chinampa gardens
 - c) tended their chinampa gardens
 - d) having tended their chinampa gardens

2. _____, Aztec agricultural engineers constructed elaborate dikes and canals.
 - a) To control water levels
 - b) Controlling water levels
 - c) Control water levels
 - d) Controlled water levels

3. The farmers hoped _____ from the chinampas.
 - a) harvesting multiple crops annually
 - b) harvest multiple crops annually
 - c) to harvest multiple crops annually
 - d) harvested multiple crops annually

4. _____, the Aztecs created one of the most productive agricultural systems in the world.
 - a) By utilizing lake resources
 - b) To utilize lake resources
 - c) Utilize lake resources
 - d) Lake resources were utilized

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PART 4: Create Verbal Phrases

Complete each sentence by creating a verbal phrase of the type indicated in parentheses.

1. (Gerund phrase as subject) _____ was essential for Aztec farmers to maintain the fertility of chinampas.
2. (Participial phrase describing farmers) The Aztec farmers, _____, developed extensive knowledge of crop rotation.
3. (Infinitive phrase as direct object) The agricultural leaders taught young Aztecs _____.
4. (Participial phrase describing chinampas) The chinampas, _____, supported the large Aztec population.
5. (Gerund phrase as object of preposition) The Aztec civilization depended on _____.

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PART 5: Identify Errors in Verbal Phrases

Each sentence contains an error in the use of a verbal phrase. Identify and correct the error.

1. To produced abundant crops, the Aztecs created an ingenious system of artificial islands.

Correction: _____

2. Working in the chinampas require careful attention to water levels.

Correction: _____

3. The Aztec farmers were skill at using lake sediment to fertilize crops.

Correction: _____

4. Having build extensive canal networks, the Aztecs efficiently transported water to all farmlands.

Correction: _____

5. The community gathering to celebrate successful harvests from the chinampas.

Correction: _____

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Verbal Phrases – Answer Key

PART 1: Identify the Type of Verbal Phrase

1. P (participial phrase)
2. I (infinitive phrase)
3. G (gerund phrase)
4. P (participial phrase)
5. I (infinitive phrase)

PART 2: Function of Verbal Phrases

1. to create artificial islands for farming - predicate nominative/complement
2. Floating on the lake surface - adjective (describing chinampas)
3. working with the nutrient-rich mud from lake bottoms - direct object
4. maintaining the complex chinampa system - object of preposition
5. irrigating crops during dry seasons - object of preposition

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Verbal Phrases – Answer Key

PART 3: Complete with the Correct Verbal Phrase

- b) tending their chinampa gardens
- a) To control water levels
- c) to harvest multiple crops annually
- a) By utilizing lake resources

PART 4: Create Verbal Phrases

(Sample answer) Adding nutrient-rich mud from the lake bottom

(Sample answer) working diligently from sunrise to sunset

(Sample answer) to construct and maintain efficient irrigation systems

(Sample answer) created from layers of soil and aquatic vegetation

(Sample answer) growing diverse crops in their floating gardens

PART 5: Identify Errors in Verbal Phrases

1. To produced → To produce
2. require → requires
3. were skill → were skilled
4. Having build → Having built
5. The community gathering → The community gathered OR
The community gathering...celebrated...