

# CONCEPT CHECK: Participial Phrases

Ex. <sup>+ label P for participle</sup> Underline the participial phrase in each sentence. Then <sup>draw an arrow to</sup> circle the noun or pronoun modified by the phrase. <sup>Label Subject, VERB, DO, IO, PA, + P( ) if applicable</sup>

## A Sport in Decline?

1. In many parts of the country, steadily declining interest has damaged high school football.   
 (P → S, DO)
2. Preferring soccer or basketball, many students do not sign up for football.   
 (P → S, V, V, DO)
3. Parents concerned about football injuries suggest other sports.   
 (S, P → V, DO)
4. Reacting to a lack of interest, school officials have cut football funds.   
 (P → S, V, V, DO)
5. Remaining popular in many urban areas, however, high school football won't be dying out anytime soon.   
 (P → S, V, V, V, V, DO; note: "dying out" = verb phrase)
6. Many teenagers playing on high school football teams have had (to quit) because they must work after school.   
 (S, P → V, V, DO)
7. Also, parents worried about their children's grades insist (that their teenagers concentrate on academics, not sports.)   
 (S, P → V, DO - this whole phrase functions as the DO)
8. In some schools, severely strained budgets have forced administrators to drop their football programs.   
 (P → S, V, V, DO)
9. As a result, National Football League (NFL) officials say (they may have to create special academies promoting high school football.)   
 (S, V, DO - same as #7, P → V)
10. Many future professional players may learn their skills at these football academies established by the NFL.   
 (S, V, V, DO, P → DO)

Mr. Sinkinson, p.  
English 9

Key

## Verbals

Verbals are forms of verbs that are used as other parts of speech. There are three types of verbals: participles, gerunds, and infinitives.

- A **participle** is a verb form used as an adjective. Participles can end in *-ing* or *-ed*. A **participial phrase** consists of the participle, and any complements or modifiers.

***Infected with typhoid**, Mary Mallon passed on the disease to others.*

- A **gerund** is a verb form ending in *-ing* that acts as a noun. A **gerund phrase** consists of the gerund, and any complements or modifiers.

*Mary Mallon was accused of **infecting others with typhoid**.*

- An **infinitive** is a verb form, usually preceded by *to*, that is used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb. A **infinitive phrase** consists of the infinitive, and any complements or modifiers.

*Mary Mallon refused **to believe that she was a typhoid carrier**.*

Identify the boldfaced, underlined phrase as a participial phrase (P), gerund phrase (G), or infinitive phrase (I).

- P 1. Nellie wrote articles describing the hard lives of the poor.
- P 2. Communicating her own concern for others, Nellie aroused readers' sympathy for poor working women.
- G 3. After <sup>prep</sup> winning loyal readers <sup>Object of Prep</sup>, Nellie was given an unusual assignment.
- G 4. In those days, <sup>Subject</sup> traveling in foreign countries was dangerous for a single woman.
- I 5. Nellie went to Mexico to report on life in that country.
- I 6. To get more excitement, Nellie then moved to a New York newspaper.
- I 7. Her first assignment was pretending to be insane.
- P 8. Admitted to an insane asylum, Nellie stayed for two weeks to get the facts about conditions inside.
- P 9. Her articles reporting on abuse of patients resulted in action to improve their treatment.
- I 10. In her most famous exploit, Nellie tried to travel around the world in 80 days.

## Verbals

Identify each boldfaced verbal phrase by writing **G** for **gerund phrase**, **P** for **participial phrase**, or **I** for **infinitive phrase** on the line to the left. Be prepared to explain more about your answer, such as "the gerund is functioning as a subject" or "the infinitive is being used as an adverb to describe the verb running."

- Pay attention to beginning phrases set off w/a comma - usually are Participial*
- P 1. **Using the kite string as an electrical conductor**, Franklin captured a bit of lightning.
  - P 2. The electricity **captured during his experiment** was safely stored in a Leyden jar.
  - G 3. **Franklin's surviving the process** was a kind of scientific miracle. *Subject*
  - G 4. I remember how my father loved **flying kites**. *DO*
  - G 5. He loved **to get out in the city park on a windy autumn afternoon**.
  - I 6. But he always warned me **never to fly a kite in a storm**.
  - P 7. **Using balsa sticks and tissue paper**, he made me my first kite. *S ✓*
  - I 8. I'd give anything **to have that kite now**.
  - G 9. **Remembering my first kite** brings back a lot of other memories. *Subject*
  - I 10. I'd like **to make a kite for my son**.
  - P 11. Anybody **devoted to personal fitness** should try to walk more.
  - G 12. After **running for an hour to train for the race**, I only wanted to take a nap. *Prep OBJECT of Preposition*
  - I 13. After running for an hour **to train for the race**, I only wanted to take a nap.
  - I 14. After running for an hour to train for the race, I only wanted **to take a nap**.
  - I 15. A flying trapeze is not the best equipment **to use for exercise**.
  - I 16. Sailing inspired Henry **to write poetry**.
  - I 17. **To build up muscles for running**, Ari walked a mile a day.
  - P 18. **Injured in the fall**, Evelyn considered dropping out of the race.
  - G 19. Injured in the fall, Evelyn considered **dropping out of the race**. *DO*
  - P 20. Larry, **surrounded by guards**, decided to toss the ball at the basket.

## Verbals

### Exercise: Identifying Verbals

On the line, identify the underlined verbal or verbal phrase in these sentences about "Mary Mallon's Trail of Typhoid" as a participle (P), a gerund (G), or an infinitive (I).

- I 1. It is possible to catch typhoid from contaminated food or water.
- G 2. Identifying the source of the typhoid outbreak was a difficult challenge. *Subject*
- P 3. Working as a cook in New York households, Mary passed her disease to unsuspecting victims.
- I 4. Authorities had to take Mary, kicking and screaming, into custody.
- I 5. If the typhoid victim manages to survive, he or she gradually returns to normal.
- I 6. After an unsuccessful appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, Mary was forced to live in an isolation center.
- G 7. It is odd that some people are known for carrying the disease even though they have no obvious symptoms. *Prep OPrep*
- P 8. Learning of another outbreak, investigators began to search for Mary again.
- P 9. Returned to Riverside Hospital, Mary stayed there the rest of her life.
- G 10. Harboring the typhoid bacteria was Mary's curse. *Subject*

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## REVISING: Fixing Dangling and Misplaced Participial Phrases

Read the following paragraph. Underline the sentences that contain dangling or misplaced participial phrases, then rewrite them, adding or rearranging words to eliminate the errors.

### *A Star in Two Ways*

A high school in Colorado had a homecoming queen who played football. There was a special ceremony at halftime of the homecoming game. Queen Katie smiled for the photographers taking off her helmet. <sup>① mm</sup> Accepting a white rose, <sup>Dm ②</sup> the crowd loudly cheered. Katie enjoyed the ceremony, but she was prouder of her performance on the field. <sup>Dm ③</sup> With the game on the line, a field goal sailed through the goal posts <sup>④ mm</sup> kicked by Katie. During her four years on the team, Katie played well without receiving any special treatment. She was tackled by large opposing players <sup>⑤ mm</sup> kicking extra points. Katie was not ready to give up the game after high school. <sup>Dm ⑥</sup> Determined to play college football, Katie's mother gave her full support.

- ① The phrase refers to Queen Katie - move closer
- ② Who is accepting the rose? Katie, not the crowd - Katie is not present; thus, this is a dangling modifier
- ③ Who or what has the game on the line? The team, not the goal.
- ④ Katie kicked the goal, not the goal posts - move closer
- ⑤ She is kicking the points, not the opposing players - move closer
- ⑥ Who is determined? Katie, not her mother