

2003-2004 World Literature and Composition Honors Verbals Worksheets, Page 1 of 11

301 Gerund Phrases

EXERCISE Underline the gerund phrase(s) in each of the following sentences. State its function: S, DO, IO, OP, PN.

1. Waiting in line can be tiresome.
2. I love swimming in the ocean.
3. The value of reading books cannot be overstated.
4. Flying a plane can be an exciting experience.
5. Lois liked cooking exotic dishes.
6. Jack didn't enjoy cleaning up his room.
7. Walking for the first time excited the baby.
8. The difficulty of writing a poem became obvious at once.
9. Breaking new ground in cancer research is a challenge many scientists are trying to meet.
10. Unlocking the mystery of the disease will be a major contribution.
11. Appreciating music is in itself a gift, even if a person is not a musician.
12. Listening carefully in class helps a student.
13. Talking on the phone was Frank's favorite habit.
14. The joy of giving gifts is watching people open them.
15. Most people like helping others.
16. In answering the question, try to discuss these three issues.
17. Reading a thermometer is not usually a hard task.
18. Seeing all the ordinary sights of nature with a fresh eye brings awe.
19. Driving coast to coast took longer than I thought it would.
20. Feeling healthy is a large part of happiness.

302 Infinitives

EXERCISE Some of the following sentences have infinitives; others do not. If a sentence has an infinitive, underline it. If a sentence has no infinitive, write None.

1. I like to bake cookies.
2. Fighting against the current, the swimmer finally reached shore.
3. The rocking chair was made by a sect in Pennsylvania called the Shakers.
4. To see one's own faults is hard.
5. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 for our candidate.
6. To think that we almost lost is startling.
7. He seemed to be ill.
8. The victorious captain was little known to the troops.
9. Will he want to go to the theater with us?
10. To discover a new continent was the goal of some early explorers.
11. They came upon a vast ocean, which they named "Pacific."

12. To sand these floors will take time.
13. Victor wants to paint his house this year.
14. To travel to Germany is Hans' goal.
15. Charley's ambition is to become a Major League pitcher.
16. To win is desirable but not essential.
17. We hope to visit Catherine.
18. I plan to finish before Saturday.
19. The train is almost ready to leave.
20. To her credit, she apologized for her angry letter.

303 Prepositional Phrases - Adjective Phrases

EXERCISE Draw parentheses around the adjective phrases in the sentences below. Indicate which word it describes.

1. The boy in the red shirt kept tapping his pencil.
2. The heat of the July day sapped the energy of the entire summer-school class.
3. A girl in a flowered sundress fanned herself lazily.
4. The tow-headed student in the back of the room shifted restlessly in his seat.
5. The lesson on the prepositional phrase was the subject of the day.
6. The students had already learned the definitions of nouns and pronouns.
7. They had also been taught the rules governing various uses of the adverb and adjective.
8. They knew the definition of a phrase.
9. The summer's heat in the classroom, however, interfered with their concentration on grammar.
10. The breeze from the fans blew their materials about, but it did little more.
11. Opening the windows on the east wall of the room only brought the noise of traffic into the classroom.
What is the reason for grammar, anyway?
12. Grammar and usage provide guidelines for writing and speaking standard English.
14. What is the exact nature of the prepositional phrase?
15. How can anyone tell the difference between an adjective phrase and an adverb phrase?
16. Does position in the sentence determine whether a phrase is an adjective phrase or an adverb phrase?
17. The details of the prepositional phrase are not very difficult, but they do take concentration.
18. In the heat of summer, however, grammar seemed harder.
19. Nevertheless, both the students and the teacher in that classroom plugged on.
20. They conquered the mysteries of the prepositional phrase.

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