

GERUNDS (Verbal Nouns) and Participles (Adjectives)

- Gerunds have the same form as a Participle because they end in -ING.

Example:

While I was traveling in Florida, I met a student. (Participle)

Traveling is a form of education. (Gerund).

Jose enjoys traveling. (Gerund)

Jose spends his time in traveling. (Gerund)

Jose's favorite pastime is traveling. (Gerund).

A sleeping dog = a dog that sleeps. (Participle)

A sleeping car = a car for sleeping. (Gerund)

I was irritated by John's constant interrupting. (Gerund)

I was irritated by John's, constantly interrupting.

(Participle)

The guitarist's finger-picking was extraordinary. (The *technique* was extraordinary.) (Gerund)

The guitarist, finger-picking, was extraordinary. (The *person* was extraordinary, demonstrating the technique.) **(Participle)**

He was not impressed with their competing. (The *competing* did not impress him.) (Gerund)

He was not impressed with them competing. (*They* did not impress him as they competed.) **(Participle)**

Grandpa enjoyed his grandchildren's running and laughing. (Gerund)

Grandpa enjoyed his grandchildren, running and laughing.* (Ambiguous: who is running and laughing?) **(Participle)**

Gerunds

A gerund is a verbal that ends in *-ing* and functions as a noun. The term *verbal* indicates that a gerund, like the other two kinds of verbals, is based on a verb and therefore expresses action or a state of being. However, since a gerund functions as a noun, it occupies