

Verbal Phrases A

Two types of *verbal phrases* are participial phrases and infinitive phrases.

5f. A *participial phrase* consists of a participle together with its modifiers and complements. The entire phrase is used as an adjective.

5h. An *infinitive phrase* consists of an infinitive together with its modifiers and complements. The entire phrase may be used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb.

PARTICIPIAL PHRASE **Becoming thirsty from the heat**, I looked for a water fountain.

INFINITIVE PHRASE My only concern was **to quench my thirst**.

EXERCISE A On the line provided, identify each underlined phrase by writing *inf* for *infinitive phrase* or *part* for *participial phrase*.

Example part 1. Tired from the walk, Aurelio lay down for a short nap.

- _____ 1. Eric hopes to see the Great Wall of China someday.
- _____ 2. Singing a happy tune, Marcia strolled down the street.
- _____ 3. Built last year, one new home sits proudly on top of a hill.
- _____ 4. To travel to India is Devorah's goal.
- _____ 5. A classical music concert is a joy to attend on a relaxing weekend.

EXERCISE B Underline the verbal phrase in each of the following sentences. Then, on the line provided, identify the phrase by writing *part* for *participial phrase* or *inf* for *infinitive phrase*.

Examples part 1. The languages commonly spoken in Canada are French and English.

inf 2. To speak fluent French is my goal.

- _____ 6. One requirement of airline pilots is to speak and understand English.
- _____ 7. People speaking Chinese outnumber those who speak English.
- _____ 8. To learn a second language is certainly worthwhile.
- _____ 9. Signs posted in international airports are often in several languages.
- _____ 10. To visit a foreign country is the desire of many young people.
- _____ 11. They want to experience different customs, foods, and environments.
- _____ 12. Knowing Spanish, a person can travel in Mexico and South America without a language barrier.
- _____ 13. I would also like to go to São Paulo, Brazil.
- _____ 14. If you like to travel by boat, perhaps you should visit Venice.
- _____ 15. Tourists looking for beautiful views might visit Denmark.

Verbal Phrases B

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PARTICIPIAL PHRASE **Pressed for time**, Susan quickly bought her ticket and boarded the plane.

INFINITIVE PHRASE She felt lucky **to have a seat next to the window**.

EXERCISE A On the line provided, identify each underlined phrase by writing *inf* for *infinitive phrase* or *part* for *participial phrase*.

Example part 1. Struggling intensely, the toddler finally took his first step.

- _____ 1. I would like to know the name of that singer.
- _____ 2. Sarah and Katie stood in line to see the band.
- _____ 3. Susan and Michelle, returning from their trip, told stories about their adventures.
- _____ 4. To buy a car is Laura's main objective this summer.
- _____ 5. Recently released on video, the highly praised movie quickly became a big seller.

EXERCISE B Underline the verbal phrase in each of the following sentences. Then, on the line provided, identify the phrase by writing *part* for *participial phrase* or *inf* for *infinitive phrase*.

Examples part 1. The raw vegetables, chopped into bite-sized pieces, made a crunchy snack.

- inf 2. After the concert, we decided to go for a walk around the lake.
- _____ 6. I caught my younger sister eavesdropping behind my bedroom door.
- _____ 7. The feather, dropped from a great height, drifted slowly down.
- _____ 8. Splashing in the shallow water, the children enjoyed their day at the beach.
- _____ 9. The city passed a law to protect endangered animals.
- _____ 10. Juanita was happy to find the letter.
- _____ 11. We raked all the leaves fallen from the trees during autumn.
- _____ 12. Ending the speech, the candidate received loud applause.
- _____ 13. "If you want to know the end of the story," Gloria said, "read the book."
- _____ 14. The dog, covered in mud from the backyard, left tracks as he ran through the house.
- _____ 15. To end the game well was Kevin's only wish.