

Grammar 2: Three Kinds of Phrases Involving Verbs

Name: _____

Review Concept - Clauses

1) A **clause** is a group of words that possesses both a subject and a verb.
(Note: There are two kinds of clauses, independent clauses and dependent or subordinate clauses.)

Ex. On weekends, Mr. Robel calls himself "Robe-Dawg."

Ex. Most rappers run and hide when Robe-Dawg demonstrates his mad rapping skills.
Do you notice two clauses (i.e., two subject-verb combinations) in the sentence above?

New Concept - Verb Phrases

2) When the verb in a clause is made up of more than one word, it is called a **verb phrase**.

Every verb phrase is made up of a main verb and one or more helping verbs.

Ex. This year, Mr. Lopez will be challenging Robe-Dawg to a rap-battle.

Ex. Robe-Dawg has been winning rap battles for twenty years.

Ex. If Robe-Dawg had not decided to be a teacher, maybe he would have become a D.J.
Do you notice two clauses (i.e., two subject-verb combinations) in the sentence above?

New Concept - Verbals

Identifying the main verb in a sentence can be confusing sometimes because there are often words that look like verbs but do not actually function as verbs. Such words are known as **verbals**.

3) A **verbal** is a word formed from a verb that functions as a different part of speech (such as a noun).

4) A **gerund** is the -ing form of a verb that functions as a noun.

Can you identify the gerund phrase in each sentence below?

Ex. Defending the world against bad grammar is a full-time job.

Ex. Commander Robel enjoys punishing evildoers for their grammatical mistakes.

Ex. Joining the Intergalactic Grammar Defense League sounds like a good idea.

5) An **infinitive** is the "to" form of verb that functions as a noun, adjective, or adverb.

Can you identify the infinitive phrase in each sentence below?

Ex. Some people like to speak improper English with their friends.

Ex. However, you really don't want to do that. The Gramma Gangstas are listening.

Ex. To join the Gramma Gangstas, it will be necessary to tattoo "Gramma for Life" on yourself.

Exercise –What is the function of the underlined section in each sentence below?

Identify it as either a **main verb**, a **verb phrase**, a **gerund phrase**, or an **infinitive phrase**.

verb phrase 1. That burrito has been staring at me for five hours!

main verb 2. How many peacocks live in your bedroom?

gerund phrase 3. Running through the forest gives me joy.

infinitive phrase 4. My “special friend” likes to hold hands when no one is looking.

verb phrase 5. My sister’s brother has been spying on me all my life.

verb phrase 6. You cannot take my self-respect away from me, Mister Lizard.

main verb 7. If we capture the wildebeest on our first try, it’s Party Time™!

gerund phrase 8. Shopping at Del Monte Center is fun. At least, that’s what I have been told.

infinitive phrase 9. I want to get a Robel Revenger™ for my birthday.

verb phrase 10. You don’t know anything about it, Miss Prim and Proper!

infinitive phrase 11. My life’s goal is to open a wig shop in Carmel.

verb phrase 12. Will you please understand me, or must I explain myself all over again?

gerund phrase 13. Testing hand grenades is not the greatest career choice for you, my friend.

verb phrase 14. Uncle Mary would have made his secret pudding if I had not insulted him so terribly again.