

Gerunds & Gerund Phrases

*Let's figure out how they're different
from the participle phrases.*

How are these examples NOT participles???

Playing soccer is my favorite sport.

Practicing headers is giving me a headache!

Making a goal is obviously the goal.



What's the difference?

Playing soccer is my favorite sport.

Playing soccer yesterday, I realized
it's my favorite sport.

Gerund Phrase

Playing soccer is my favorite sport.

Playing soccer yesterday, I realized
it's my favorite sport.

Participle Phrase

If I can replace the -ing phrase with *This / It / That* and the sentence still makes sense, then it's a gerund phrase!

~~*Playing soccer*~~ is my favorite sport.

Playing soccer yesterday, I realized
it's my favorite sport.

I can't replace this
phrase with This, It, or That
because it doesn't make sense!
That's how I know this one is
a participle phrase!

What's the difference?

Practicing headers is giving me a headache!

*Practicing headers, I quickly got a
headache.*

Gerund Phrase

~~*Practicing headers*~~ is giving me a headache!

*Practicing headers, I quickly got a
headache.*

Participle Phrase

If I can replace the -ing phrase with *This / It / That* and the sentence still makes sense, then it's a gerund phrase!

~~*Practicing headers*~~ is giving me a headache!

Practicing headers, I quickly got a headache.

I can't replace this phrase with This, It, or That because it doesn't make sense! That's how I know this one is a participle phrase!

What if we switch it up?

Gerund Phrase

The goal in soccer is *scoring a goal!*

We finally won, *scoring a goal!*

Participle Phrase



If I can replace the -ing phrase with *This / It / That* and the sentence still makes sense, then it's a gerund phrase!

The goal in soccer is *scoring a goal!*

We finally won, *scoring a goal!*

Yes, it seems like you could say “We finally won IT” or “We finally won THAT” and it makes sense, but don't forget about the comma that always goes with a participle phrase. It doesn't make sense to say “We finally won, it!” or “We finally won, that!”

**Participle phrases are descriptive.
They describe what the subject is doing.**

**Racing down the field, eyeing the ball, I
stayed focused and went for it!**

**Racing down the field and eyeing the
ball is how to stay focused and go for it!**

**Gerund phrases can be replaced.
Remove everything before IS and plug in
This, That, or It. You've got a gerund phrase!**

**Ok, it's time to practice with
a partner or small group!**

**Is there a certain slide you'd
like me to leave on display for
you to look at as you work with
the gerund phrases today?**