

## Verbal Phrases

**Verbals** are formed from verbs but are used as nouns, adjectives, and adverbs. The three kinds of verbals are the *participle*, the *gerund*, and the *infinitive*. A **verbal phrase** consists of a verbal and its modifiers and complements. The three kinds of verbal phrases are the *participial phrase*, the *gerund phrase*, and the *infinitive phrase*.

**PARTICIPIAL PHRASE** **Attending this seminar**, we were part of a video conference.

**GERUND PHRASE** Next year, **attending the conference** will be much simpler.

**INFINITIVE PHRASE** May we apply now at their Web site if we wish **to attend the next conference**?

**EXERCISE A** In the sentences below, identify each underlined phrase by writing above the phrase *GER* for *gerund phrase*, *PART* for *participial phrase*, or *INF* for *infinitive phrase*.

**Example 1.** In dollars today, how much would Abraham Lincoln have spent to be elected  
*INF*  
President of the United States?

- Creating a united nation for all African peoples was Julius Nyerere's goal in life.
- Former Irish Prime Minister Jack Lynch did his best to foster peace in Ireland.
- Name the record credited with being this company's first million seller.
- How many hours does it take to fly from New York City to the South Pole?
- Hiding behind a boulder, I watched the pronghorn run across the plain.
- Laws have continued banning the sale of lead-based paint.
- Is Wilt Chamberlain the only basketball player ever to score 100 points in a single game?
- Playing for the Minnesota Twins, Rod Carew won seven American League batting titles.
- Nathalie Sarraute will be remembered for her literary style, called Roman Nouveau.
- The team having been moved out of Washington, D.C., the mascot changed also.

**EXERCISE B** In each sentence below, identify the use of the underlined phrase or clause by writing above it *N* for *noun*, *ADJ* for *adjective*, or *ADV* for *adverb*.

**Example 1.** In 1997 in the United States, what caused the work hours per person to increase?  
*N*

- The methods used to develop plutonium have been applied to DNA and RNA research.
- The novel describing the struggles of a family was my favorite.
- Did owning the oldest pencil in the world make Count von Faber-Castell famous?
- Langston Hughes helped found the Harlem Suitcase Theater.
- We decided to spend our vacation day touring the wildlife park just a few miles away.