Lesson 11 – Verbals: Participles, Gerunds, and Infinitives

Verbal: a verb form that functions on its own as a noun, adverb, or adjective. These forms of verbals are gerunds, participles, and infinitives.

Participles, in both the past and present form, can be used on their own as adjectives.

Examples: past participle: a cluttered desk filled glass
present participle: boxing monkeys ringing phone

A gerund is a present participle form that is used as a noun. Like all nouns, gerunds can function as subjects or objects in a sentence.

Examples: Boxing can cause concussions. [subject]
She loves swimming. [direct object]
The captain was penalized for fighting. [object of preposition]
Give eating healthy foods an opportunity. [indirect object]

A. Underline the participle or gerund in each sentence. For each participle, circle the word it modifies. A sentence may contain more than one verbal.

1. Barbecued chicken is a tasty summer dish.

2. Marinating chicken overnight is essential for achieving the best possible flavour.

3. Her cooking was outstanding.

4. One day, Archimedes, bathing in his tub, had an epiphany.

5. The trainer stressed that stretching after a short warm-up is key to developing flexibility.

6. Plummeting through the air as the result of a malfunctioning parachute, the skydiver needed to think quickly.
The **infinitive** is a basic verb form, often preceded by "to". The infinitive can function as a noun, adjective, or adverb.

Examples:  
*To complete* the task properly will require dedication. [noun]  
He is glad *to have* an interview scheduled. [adverb]  
The will *to win* is common among elite athletes. [adjective]

B. **Underline the infinitive in each of the following sentences and identify its function in the blank.**

1. They train to improve their fitness scores.  
   ____________

2. She wanted to watch the show.  
   ____________

3. They learned that to strive was honourable, even in defeat.  
   ____________

4. The pawn in front of the king is often the first one to move.  
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