

What are Gerunds, Infinitives, and Participles?

Worksheet

These are non-finite verbs: infinitive is the base form (parler = speak), gerund is 'en + present participle' (en parlant = while speaking), and participles (present: parlant; past: parlé) modify nouns or form compound tenses.

Questions

1. Complete: 'Elle rentre ____ l'école.' (She returns from school.)

- A) en sortant
- B) sortie
- C) sortir
- D) sortante

2. Which is the past participle of 'finir'?

- A) Finissant
- B) En finissant
- C) Finir
- D) Fini

3. Form the gerund from 'lire': '____ un livre, j'apprends.'

- A) Lire
- B) En lisant
- C) Lu
- D) Lisant

4. Use present participle as adjective: 'Un enfant...' (A smiling child.)

- A) Sourire
- B) Souriant
- C) En souriant
- D) Souri

5. Complete: 'Je me détends ____ musique.' (Relax while listening to music.)

6. Use past participle as adjective: 'Une fenêtre...' (A broken window.)

7. Form gerund from 'courir': Express 'while running down the street'.

8. Define: What is the infinitive?

9. Define: How do you form a gerund?

10. Define: What is the present participle?

Answer Key

1. A) en sortant — 'En sortant de l'école' = while leaving/after leaving school (gerund).
2. D) Fini — Fini is past participle (j'ai fini = I have finished).
3. B) En lisant — 'En lisant un livre' = while reading a book (gerund).
4. B) Souriant — Souriant (smiling/present participle) modifies 'enfant' (masc. sg.).
5. The action must be simultaneous: 'en écoutant' (gerund). Answer: Je me détends en écoutant la musique. Note: Gerund = en + present participle (nous form without -ons).
6. Past participle casser → cassé (masc./fem.: cassée) Answer: Une fenêtre cassée. Adjective agrees with the noun: window (feminine) → cassée.
7. Gerund from courir (nous courons) → en courant. Answer: Elle parle en courant dans la rue. Same rule: drop -ons and prefix 'en'.
8. The base form of a verb (parler, aller, finir) — unchanged by person/tense.
9. Add 'en' before the present participle: nous parlons → en parlant.
10. Verb form ending -ant (parlant, finissant, allant) — often used as adjective (une femme parlante).

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