

The image shows the cover of a spiral-bound notebook. The cover is a light beige or cream color with a subtle, repeating pattern of faint, stylized floral or leaf-like motifs. The spiral binding is visible on the left side, consisting of a series of metal rings. The text is centered on the cover in a dark brown, serif font.

The Book of Grammar
Lesson Eight

Mr. McBride
AP Language and Composition

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In the last grammar lesson we learned:

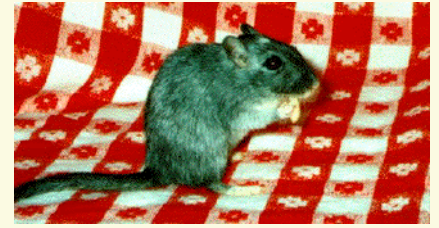
- What a verb is
 - Action verbs
 - Linking verbs
- What a verb phrase is
- The five basic verb forms: *infinitive*, *present*, *present participle*, *past*, and *past participle*

This lesson primarily concerns the use of *verbals*. It will cover:



- Participle usage
- Gerunds
- Infinitives
- Active versus passive voice
- Transitive versus Intransitive verbs

What are *Verbals*?



- Verbals are not verbs, but they are formed from verbs and, therefore, carry the idea of action. They resemble verbs in some ways, but they also resemble other parts of speech.
- There are three kinds of verbals:
 - Participles (used as adjectives)
 - Gerunds (used as nouns)
 - Infinitives (used as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs)

Everyone of course remembers what a participle is:

- Participles are the present participle (*-ing*) and past participle forms of verbs.
- Participles can be used as adjectives, to modify nouns.

Participles as adjectives

- Both the present participle and past participle form of a verb can be used as an adjective.

Remember that adjectives modify a noun:

- “A frozen hard drive threatened the success of my paper.”
- “My computer had reached the melting point.”
- “This disappointing development led to a deflated grade in English.”



Gerunds

- A **gerund** is a verb form that ends in *-ing* and is used as a noun.
- If a present participle form is acting as a noun in a sentence, it is actually a gerund.
 - “I enjoy eating.”
 - “Skiing requires ability.”
 - “Paula was afraid of falling.”

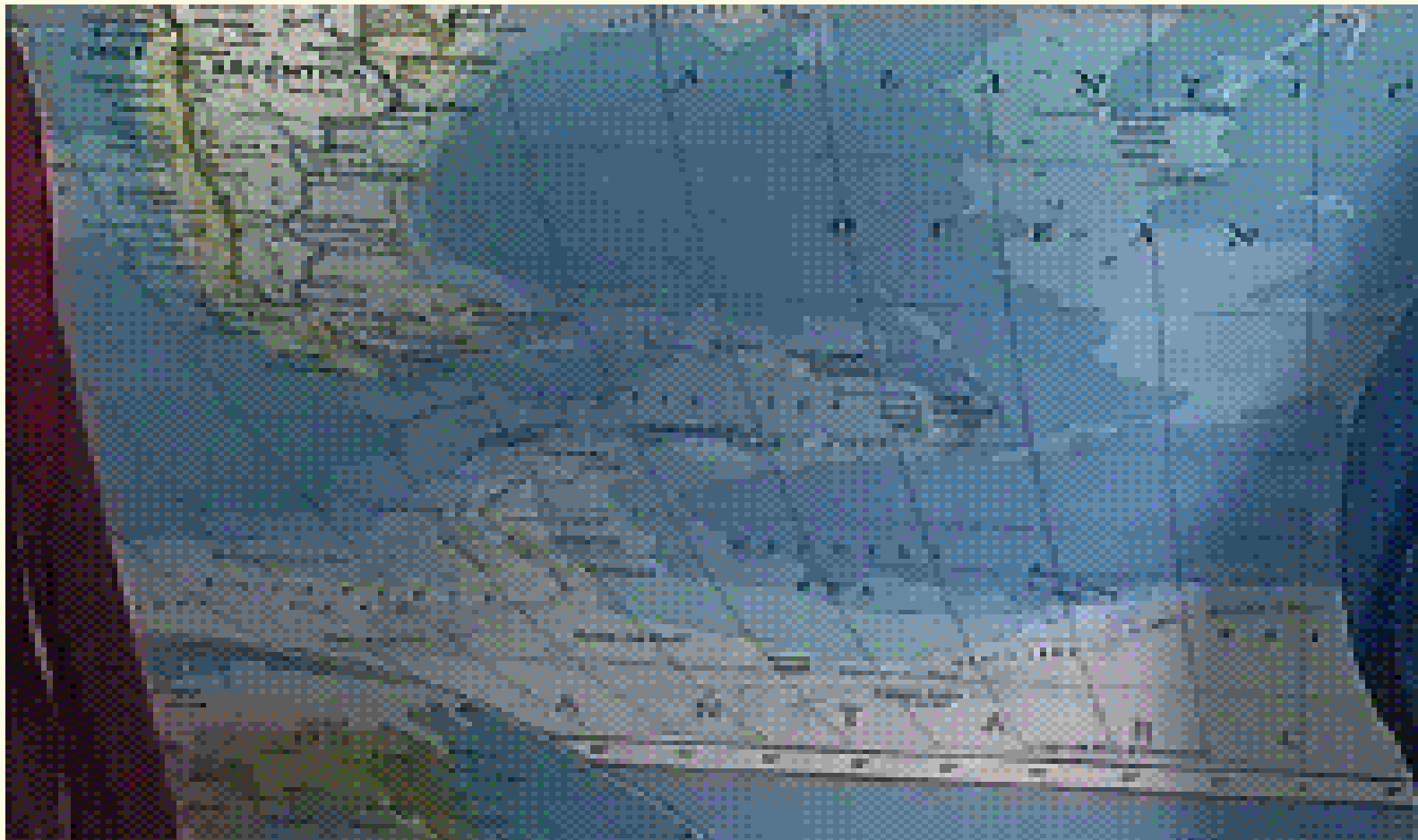
More Examples of Gerunds

- Swimming is good exercise.
→ Subject
- Paula and Pierre enjoy swimming.
→ Direct object
- The best exercise is swimming.
→ Predicate noun
- He won a gold medal in swimming.
→ Object of the preposition.

Infinitives

- An infinitive is a verb form, usually preceded by the word *to*, that is used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb.
 - **Noun:** “*To sleep* is relaxing.”
“Everyone needs *to sleep*.”
 - **Adjective:** “I had a tendency *to drowse*.”
“He has a task *to perform*.”
 - **Adverb:** “She was eager *to read*.”
“He went *to buy* a paper.”

Do not split infinitives



Voice: Active versus Passive

- A verb is active when its subject performs the action:
→ Paula bowled the ball.
- A verb is passive when its action is performed upon the subject:
→ The ball was bowled by Paula.



Active versus the Passive Voice

- The passive voice is always formed with a form of *to be* and the past participle form of the verb.
 - If a verb takes a direct object, it is in the active voice.
- As a general rule, you should put your sentences in the active voice; it gives your writing more vitality.

Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

- Transitive verbs take a direct object.
- Intransitive verbs do not take a direct object.
- Transitive verbs transfer or carry an action from the subject of the sentence to a direct object.
 - **Transitive:** Harry kicks the ball.
 - **Intransitive:** Birds fly. Henry cringed with fear. He is walking.

Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

- Verbs can be either transitive or intransitive. Some verbs are always transitive, some are always intransitive. Most verbs can be either transitive or intransitive, depending on how they are used in a sentence.
- Knowing the difference between a transitive and intransitive verb is valuable. Note the following examples...

Lie and Lay

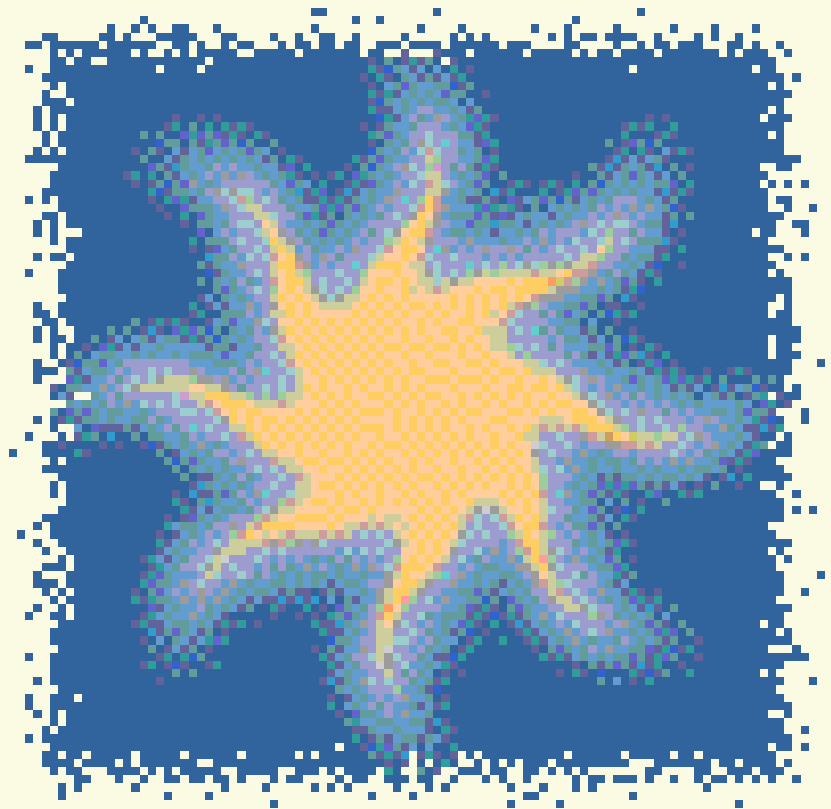
- *Lie* means “to recline.” Its conjugation is; *lie*, *lying*, *lay*, and *lain*. It is an intransitive verb.
 - “Henry, *lie* down for an hour and rest.”
 - “After work I *lay* down and rested.”
 - “I have *lain* in front of the television for hours.”
- *Lay* means “to put or set down.” Its conjugation is *lay*, *laying*, *laid* and *laid*. It is a transitive verb.
 - Lay your books on the desk.
 - The chicken laid forty eggs.

Sit and Set

- Sit and set are words with similar meanings, but *set* is transitive and *sit* is intransitive.
- Are the following sentences correct or incorrect? Why?
 - *Set* the tea on the table.
 - *Set* down, son, you're in fer some trouble.
 - *Sit* yourself down and listen to this.
 - Pierre *sat* in the corner.

So you should now be reasonably confident you understand:

- Participle usage
- Gerunds
- Infinitives
- Active versus passive voice
- Transitive versus intransitive verbs



A spiral-bound notebook with a light beige, textured cover. The spiral binding is on the left side. The text is centered on the page.

The end of Lesson Eight

Quiz Thursday, March 8