Verbals and Verb Phrases

**Verbals** are verb forms which act as another part of speech in a sentence (i.e. as adjectives, nouns, and adverbs).

**Verbal phrases** are verbals and any of the verb form's modifiers, objects, or complements. The three types of verbal phrases are **participial**, **gerund**, and **infinitive** phrases.

**Participial Phrases**

Participial Phrases are present participles or past participles and any modifiers, objects, or complements. Participial phrases contain verbs which act as adjectives in a sentence.

Examples:

* **Singing very softly**, the boy lulled his baby brother to sleep. (the participial phrase works as an adjective, modifying "boy")
* The girls, **frightened by the police car's headlights**, quickly came down from the school's roof. (the participial phrase works as an adjective, modifying "girls")

**Gerund Phrases**

Gerund Phrases contain verbs ending in -ing and any modifiers, objects, or complements. Gerund phrases act as nouns in a sentence. They can act as the subject or object of a verb, as a predicate nominative, and as the object of a preposition.

Examples:

* **Waiting for his grades** drove him crazy. (the gerund phrase works as the subject of the verb "drove")
* The woman denied **knowing her own husband**. (the gerund phrase works as the object of the verb "denied")
* He thought he could escape from his problems by **running away**. (the gerund phrase works as the object of the preposition "by")
* **Making many acquaintances** is **cultivating future friendships**. (the gerund phrases work as the subject and as the predicate nominative)

**Infinitive Phrases**

Infinitive Phrases contain verbals consisting of "to" followed by a verb and any modifiers, objects, or complements. Infinitive phrases usually act as nouns, but they can also act as adjectives and adverbs.

Examples:

* **To live in Boston eventually** is his main goal in life. (the infinitive phrase works as the subject of the sentence)
* Quentin Tarentino loves **to babble during interviews**. (the infinitive phrase works as the object of the verb "loves")
* Do you have any clothes **to donate to the homeless shelter**? (the infinitive phrase works as an adjective, modifying "clothes")
* She went home**to visit her family**. (the infinitive phrase works as an adverb, modifying "went")