

## VERB PHRASES AND VERBALS

**14e** A *verb phrase* combines an action verb or a linking verb with one or more auxiliary, or helping, verbs.

EXAMPLES He **has been swimming** for an hour. [The action verb is *swimming*, and the helping verbs are *has* and *been*.]  
 I **will buy** a cookbook for my brother. [The action verb is *buy*, and the helping verb is *will*.]  
 Bernice **should be** the team's captain. [The linking verb is *be*, and the helping verb is *should*.]



The parts of a verb phrase may be separated by other words.

EXAMPLES **Have you changed** your mind?  
 He **did not know** the answer.

**14f** A *verbal* is a verb form used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb. Do not confuse verbals with verbs.

EXAMPLES **Swimming** is good exercise. [*Swimming* is a verbal used as a noun.]  
 The **waxed** floors were slippery. [*Waxed* is a verbal used as an adjective to describe *floors*.]  
**To arrive** at daybreak, the emergency supplies must be flown out before ten o'clock. [*To arrive* is a verbal used as an adverb to modify the verb phrase *must be flown*.]

### EXERCISE 9 Identifying Verb Phrases and Verbals

Identify the italicized verb phrases and verbals in the following sentences by writing *v.* for verbal or *v. phr.* for verb phrase on the line before the sentence.

- EX.   *v.*   1. a. *Eating* watermelon is fun.  
         *v. phr.*   b. The man *is eating* watermelon for breakfast.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. a. *Replacing* the food was expensive for the shopkeeper.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b. The shopkeepers *were replacing* the food in their stores.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. a. Ethan wants *to shop* at the mall on Saturday.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ b. Ethan *will shop* at the mall on Saturday.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. a. Brook *was giving* the closing speech.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ b. Brook likes *giving* the closing speech.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. a. She *will take* your orders.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ b. By *taking* our orders, she helped the hostess.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. a. *Losing* the dogs' leashes caused many problems  
 for the trainers.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ b. The trainers *have lost* the dogs' leashes.

### EXERCISE 10 Using Verb Phrases and Verbals

Use the verb given before each pair of sentences to create a verb phrase and a verbal that will complete the meaning of the sentences. Remember to add helping verbs to create verb phrases.

- EX. rest 1. a. The resting dog stretched its back feet.  
 b. The team is resting before the last match.
- drive 1. a. Mr. Torres \_\_\_\_\_ his new car last night.  
 b. The \_\_\_\_\_ rain caused floods in the valley.
- hide 2. a. The boys looked for hours for the \_\_\_\_\_ toy.  
 b. For this game, Miriam \_\_\_\_\_ under the bed.
- lose 3. a. The \_\_\_\_\_ earring was found by Maria.  
 b. We \_\_\_\_\_ money on this project.
- cook 4. a. Aunt Salema \_\_\_\_\_ the dinner this year.  
 b. We all enjoyed the juicy, \_\_\_\_\_ meat.
- worry 5. a. \_\_\_\_\_ is simply a waste of time.  
 b. The students \_\_\_\_\_ about their tests.