Verbals and Verbal Phrases

Verbals are formed from verbs but act as adjectives, adverbs or nouns. They are classified as participles, gerunds, or infinitives. Participles are used as adjectives; gerunds, which end in –ing, serve as nouns: infinitives, introduced by to, function as nouns, adjectives, or adverbs. Verbal phrases are made up of the verbal plus its modifiers or complements.

I. **Participle and Participial Phrases**

**Present Participle** (verb + ing)

The **shouting** woman frightened the clerk.

The woman, **shouting angrily**, frightened the clerk.

**Past Participle:**

Her **torn** dress was long.

Her dress, **torn to shreds**, symbolized her miserable childhood.

II. **Gerund and Gerund Phrases**

**Running** is good exercise. (subject)

His job is **buying and selling** stocks. (subject complement)

He likes **running and jumping**. (direct object).

His career of **selling** drugs landed him in prison. (obj. of prep.)

The dancer demonstrated **whirling in patterns**. (direct object)

III. **Infinitive and Infinitive Phrases**

**To delay** would be disastrous. (subject - noun)

A good citizen refuses **to make** excuses. (direct object – noun)

My desire is **to get** married. (subject complement – noun)

His friend needs more money **to spend**. (adjective)

The young man ran **to catch the bus**. (adverb)