



Key Points about Verbal Phrases

Verbals show how creative our minds are.
If we can take an action verb and make a noun out of it,
then we can make ideas not just about things,
but also about actions.

Verbals are not verbs in sentences,
but they are still verby enough to do
some very verby things.

For example, look at this gerund phrase that
is a noun and the subject of the sentence:

Sweeping the sidewalk was the baker's morning task.

See the gerund phrase *sweeping the sidewalk*?
Notice that the noun *sidewalk* is almost like
a direct object. It is receiving the action
of the gerund, *sweeping*, just as if the gerund
were still a verb. When this happens,
we call the noun the **OBJECT of the gerund**.
You also can have objects of participles or infinitives:

Sweeping the sidewalk, the baker laughed.

To sweep the sidewalk is a good idea.

Objects of verbals use object pronouns:

Seeing *him* and *her* was fun.

To see *him* and *her* is the plan.