

NAME

Lesson 8.8 Gerund and Gerund Phrases

(pp. 213–214)

EXERCISE 1 Recognizing Gerunds

Circle each gerund in the paragraph below.

¹Traveling on the Underground Railroad was difficult. ²This network of secret routes and houses helped thousands of slaves escape to freedom in the free states and Canada. ³From 1810 to 1850, hundreds of fugitives were making their way to freedom each month. ⁴For safety, most people preferred moving at night and using the North Star for general directions. ⁵Conditions were hard, and escaping required both planning and luck. ⁶Slave owners frequently offered large rewards for finding and returning a slave. ⁷In addition, dogs used for hunting were often sent to track escaped slaves down. ⁸How did the slaves know where the next safe house might be? ⁹Passing along information by word of mouth or by using coded messages were two main ways.

Hint

Remember to underline any modifiers or prepositional phrases that are part of the gerund phrase.

Alyssa finished reading the book about the Civil War.

EXERCISE 2 Identifying Gerund Use

First, underline the gerund or gerund phrase in each sentence. Then label it *S* for subject, *PN* for predicate noun, *DO* for direct object, and *OP* for object of a preposition. If a sentence has no gerund or gerund phrase, write *N*.

- _____ 1. I have enjoyed learning about the Underground Railroad.
- _____ 2. Resting spots for runaway slaves were called “stations.”
- _____ 3. Those responsible for guiding slaves were called “conductors.”
- _____ 4. Many people helped the slaves by donating clothes for them.
- _____ 5. One difficulty for the slaves was finding enough food.
- _____ 6. Locating the routes on modern maps has proved difficult.
- _____ 7. Among notable conductors who made daring rescues of slaves were Levi Coffin, Harriet Tubman, and William Still.
- _____ 8. Mr. Still, a writer and civil rights activist, is famous for being the “Father of the Underground Railroad.”
- _____ 9. I will be reading more about Still’s life this weekend.
- _____ 10. Making a poster about Mr. Still is my homework for Monday.