

33 (a). In compound words the form in—*ing* is usually a Gerund, *e. g.* :—

playing-field (= field for playing),  
writing-paper,  
walking-stick,  
working-capital (= capital for working),  
tuning-fork,  
working-order,

but "humming-bird" = "bird *that hums*," and therefore "humming" is a Participle.

(b). Some *nouns* ending in—*ing* are not Gerunds, but are actually Participles that have come into such common use that the words they qualify have been dropped, *e. g.*

a human *being* = a human (thing) existing,

so that we may parse "being" as a Noun, but *not* as a Gerund.

But in we live and move and have our *being*,

"being" = "the act of existing" and is therefore a Gerund.

*Prolative Infinitive.*

(c). The verbs *be, have, can, shall, will, must, etc.*, which help to form various parts of other verbs, are called **AUXILIARY** (Helping) Verbs; most of these are followed by Infinitives, though *to* is not expressed :—

*e. g.* He must [*to*] come,  
We can [*to*] help it,

and such Infinitives, *carrying on* as they do the meaning of the verbs, are called **PROLATIVE**, and are treated as Completions of Predicates.

All these verbs may be considered as Transitive, *governing* the Infinitives that follow, which would then be included in class (i) § 32: but some of the Auxiliaries are so familiar as to be treated only as signs of various moods and tenses: their transitive force is no longer obvious, and the convention explained above is very useful.

*Accusative and Infinitive.*

(d). The Infinitive in the Accusative and Infinitive construction, explained above [§ 22, (iii)] will also be included in group (i) of § 32.