• Verbal: a verb form that does not function as the verb of a clause
  a. gerunds
  b. infinitives
  c. participles (present and past)

• Verbal Phrases
  1. Gerund phrases always function as nouns.
     a. Justifying a fault doubles it.
  2. Infinitive phrases function as adjectives, adverbs, or nouns.
     a. We do not have the right to abandon the poor. (adjective)
     b. He stopped to smoke a cigarette. vs. He stopped smoking cigarettes. (adverb)
     c. To side with truth is noble. vs. Siding with truth is noble. (noun)
  3. Participial phrases always function as adjectives by modifying the subjects.
     a. Now preparing to give a speech, the president is meeting with his advisors.
     b. Published in 1991, the book became an instant bestseller.

• Sequence of Tenses with Verbal Phrases
  I. The simple tense shows action occurring at the same time as or later than the action of the verb in the sentence.
  II. The perfect tense shows action occurring before that of the verb in the sentence.

  1. Simple Gerunds: ex) writing
     a. He is proud of his father's being a poet.
  2. Perfect Gerunds: ex) to have written
     b. I am sure of his having passed the exam.
  3. Simple Infinitives: ex) to write
     a. The club had hoped to raise a thousand dollars by April1.
  4. Perfect Infinitives: ex) to have written
     b. Dan would like to have joined the navy, but he did not pass the physical.
  5. Simple Participles: ex) writing
     a. Living in the countryside, I am extremely healthy.
     ⇒
     b. Living in the countryside, I was extremely healthy.
     ⇒
  6. Perfect Participles: ex) having written
     c. Having lived in the countryside, I am extremely healthy.
     ⇒
     d. Having lived in the countryside, I was extremely healthy.
     ⇒

• What's wrong with the following sentence?
  *Raining yesterday, the ground is wet.
  ⇒