

Lesson 19 Underline each gerund phrase. Draw a box around the gerund.

1. Becoming a triathlete is my dream.
2. A triathlon involves competing in three different events.
3. Triathletes compete without even taking a rest between events!
4. Swimming almost a mile is the first event of most triathlons.
5. Bicycling 25 miles comes next.
6. The hardest part, though, may be running six miles at the end.
7. Finishing a triathlon successfully is considered the ultimate athletic challenge.
8. Each week I spend some time on training for the triathlon.
9. I really enjoy riding my bike to and from school.
10. Running long distance is my best event in track.
11. I am not as good at swimming laps, however.
12. I plan to work on swimming long distances at the pool this summer.
13. A friend will help me by timing my laps.
14. The real trick will be putting all three events together.
15. Training for nine to twelve months should prepare me for the competition.

Lesson 20 Label each item *F* (fragment), *RO* (run-on), *CS* (comma splice), or *RA* (ramble-on).

1. The saguaro is often called the giant cactus it grows up to sixty feet tall. _____
2. Up to ten tons in weight. _____
3. The saguaro's trunk is shaped like a thick column, a few branches point upward. _____
4. When I saw a saguaro cactus I thought that in my opinion the branches looked like the arms of a human person who was waving hello to somebody the person knew. _____
5. Found in Arizona, southern California, and parts of Mexico. _____
6. Because the region receives very little rain. _____
7. The saguaro soaks up rain, grooves in its trunk expand to hold the water. _____
8. When the rainstorms finally come. _____
9. The saguaro's grooves expand and contract like an accordion, which is a musical instrument that has grooves that expand and contract in much the same way. _____
10. The saguaro has white, funnel-shaped flowers they bloom on summer nights. _____
11. State flower of Arizona. _____
12. Bats drink the flowers' nectar, pollen is spread from flower to flower on the bats' wings. _____
13. Pollinated cacti produce reddish-purple fruit black seeds spill out when the fruit splits open. _____
14. The saguaro is an essential part of the ecosystem its fruit provides food for many desert animals. _____
15. People eat the fruit raw, they also use it to make jam and syrup. _____