The image shows the cover of a spiral-bound notebook. The cover is a light tan or beige color with a subtle, repeating pattern of faint, stylized floral or leaf-like motifs. The spiral binding is visible on the left side, consisting of a series of metal loops. The text is centered on the cover in a dark brown, serif font.

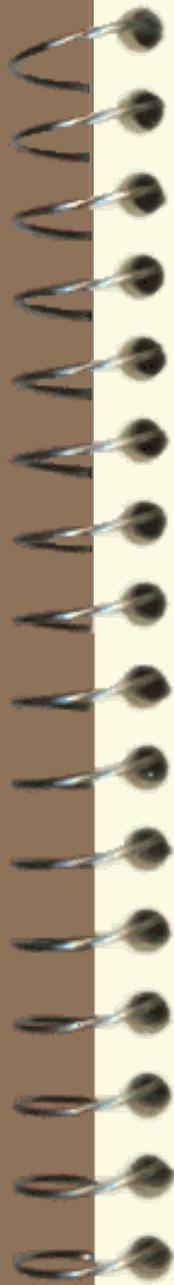
The Book of Grammar
Lesson Nine

Mr. McBride
AP Language and Composition

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In the last grammar lesson we learned about:

- Participles
- Gerunds
- Infinitives
- Transitive and Intransitive Verbs
- Active versus passive voice

What this lesson covers:

- The use of phrases made from :
 - participles
 - gerunds
 - Infinitives
- Use of different kinds of clauses and phrases for variety and clarity in writing

Remember...

- A phrase is a group of related words used as a single part of speech and not containing a verb and its subject.
- In the last lesson we learned that there are three kinds of verbals:
 - Participles
 - Gerunds
 - Infinitives
- In this lesson we will learn how to make phrases from the various verbals.

Participial Phrases

- A *participial phrase* contains a participle and its modifiers and completers.
 - “modifiers and completers” are most often adverbs, objects of the participle, or prepositional phrases that fill out the phrase
 - Participial phrases act like big adjectives.

Participial Phrases Continued

- Participial phrases can be formed with a present or a past participle.
- A participial phrase will be modifying a noun or pronoun in the sentence.
- Errors in participial phrase usage occur when it is unclear what is being modified.

Examples of Participial Phrases

- We saw Michael Jordan playing basketball.
 - The phrase here consists of a present participle and its object.
 - The participial phrase is modifying Michael Jordan.

Examples of Participial Phrases

- Disappointed with his first shot, Jordan rebounded the ball and scored a basket.
 - When starting a sentence with a participial phrase, always set it off with a comma.
 - The participial phrase is modifying Jordan.

Examples of Participial Phrases

- Graciously accepting the trophy, Jordan thought how preferable this was to stitching sneakers together in Indonesia.
 - The phrase here consists of an adverb, the present participle, and its object.
 - The participial phrase modifies Jordan.

Common errors with participial phrases:

- People often use participial phrases incorrectly, a fact not lost on creators of standardized tests.
- The two most common errors are *dangling participial phrases* (also known as *dangling modifiers*) and *misplaced modifiers*.
 - The next two slides illustrate these errors.

The dangling participial phrase:

- A dangling participial phrase modifies an idea that is in the writer's mind but not in the actual sentence, making it unclear what is being referred to by the phrase.
 - **Incorrect:** "Walking down the street, the sun shone brightly."
 - **Correct:** "Walking down the street, I saw the sun shining brightly."
 - **Incorrect:** "Driving down the street, the dog ran across the road."
 - **Correct:** "Driving down the street, I saw the dog run across the road."

The misplaced modifier:

- A misplaced modifier is a participial phrase that modifies the wrong noun or pronoun in the sentence.
 - **Incorrect:** “The ant found the picnickers using a special insect sense.”
 - **Correct:** “Using a special insect sense, the ant found the picnickers.”

Gerund Review

- Remember that a **gerund** is a verb form that ends in *-ing* and is used as a noun.
- If a present participle form is acting as a noun in a sentence, it is actually a gerund.
 - “I enjoy eating.”
 - “Skiing requires ability.”
 - “Paula was afraid of falling.”

Gerund Phrases

- A **gerund phrase** contains a gerund and other words that describe, or modify, the gerund. It can vary in length, depending on how the gerund is expanded. It behaves like a big noun.
 - “Making a success of your academic career requires maturity.”
 - “Success in any field depends on planning well and on taking necessary risks.”

Possessive Pronouns with Gerund Phrases

- Use the possessive form of a pronoun before a gerund phrase, just like you would if it was a noun:
 - “John’s mother doesn’t like his staying up late.” (not *him*)
 - “I hope this lesson will improve the chances of my doing well on the SAT.” (not *me*)

Review of Infinitives:

- Remember that an infinitive is a verb form, usually preceded by the word *to*, that is used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb.
 - **Noun:** “To sleep is relaxing.”
“Everyone needs to sleep.”
 - **Adjective:** “I had a tendency to drowse.”
 - **Adverb:** “She was eager to read.”

The Infinitive Phrase

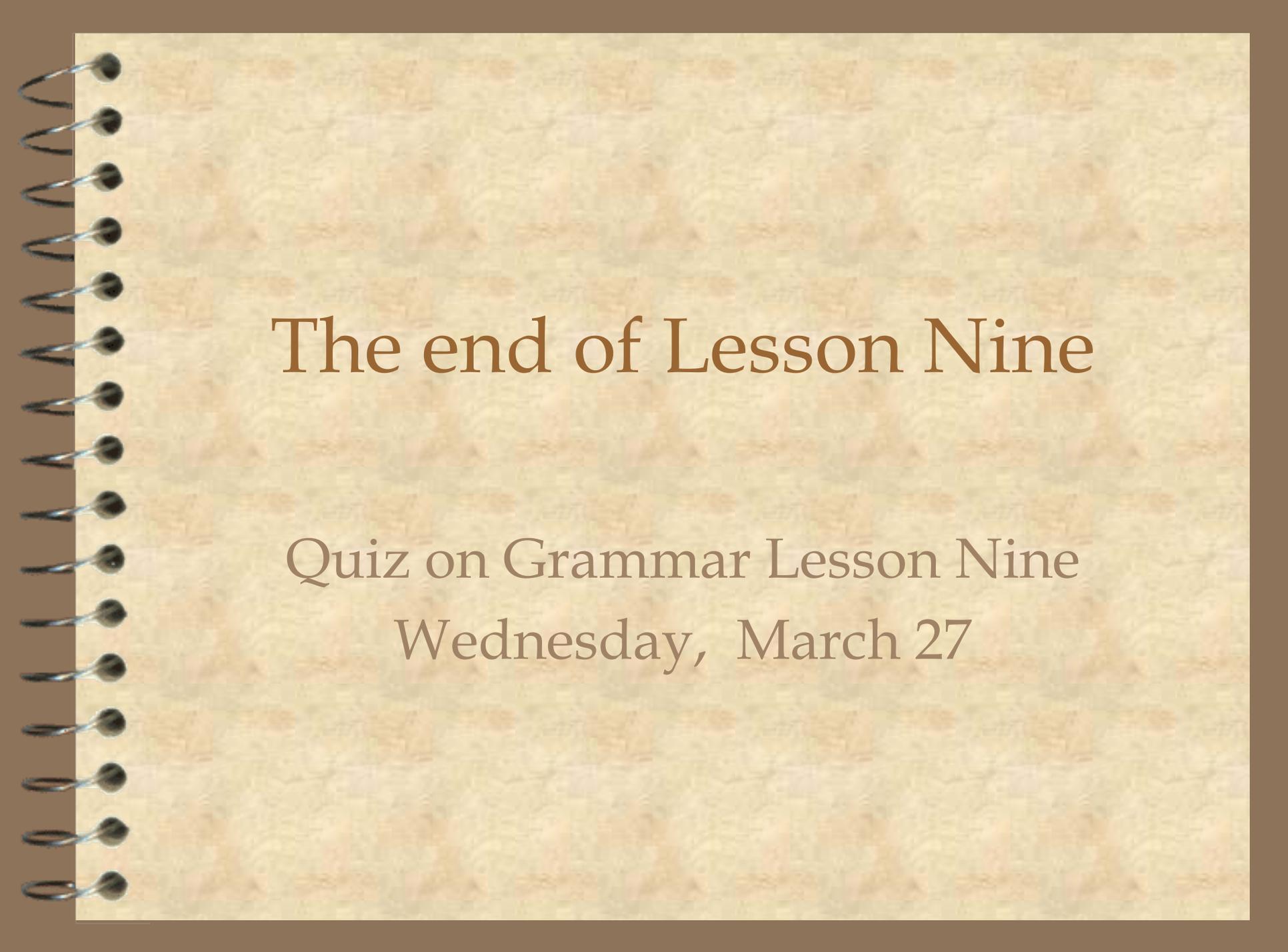
- An infinitive phrase contains an infinitive and other words that describe, or modify, the infinitive.
 - “They wanted to eat quickly.”
 - “It was fun to tell her the news.”
 - “My baby sister loves to nap holding her teddy bear.”
 - “We decided to hurry to arrive early for the party.”

Clause and Phrase Variation

- Most of the time, a Relative Clause can be re-written as a participial phrase:
 - The book, which caught on with college-aged readers, proved influential over time.
 - Catching on with college-aged readers, the book proved influential over time.
- Realizing this can add variety to your writing if you take advantage of both constructions.

What this lesson covered:

- Do you know the various rules for phrases made from:
 - participles
 - gerunds
 - Infinitives
- Use of different kinds of clauses and phrases for variety and clarity in writing

A spiral-bound notebook with a light beige, textured cover. The spiral binding is on the left side. The text is centered on the page.

The end of Lesson Nine

Quiz on Grammar Lesson Nine

Wednesday, March 27