EXERCISE 64–3  Identifying verbal phrases

Underline the verbal phrases in the following sentences. Be prepared to explain the function of each phrase. Example:

Do you want to be a writer? Then write. *(Infinitive phrase used as direct object of Do want)*

a. Concealing a disease is no way to cure it. — Ethiopian proverb
b. The trouble with being punctual is that nobody is there to appreciate it. — Franklin P. Jones
c. Fate tried to conceal him by naming him Smith. — Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.
d. Being weak, children quickly learn to beguile us with charm. — Anonymous
e. Wrestling with words gave me my moments of greatest meaning. — Richard Wright

1. The thing generally raised on city land is taxes. — C. D. Warner
2. Do not use a hatchet to remove a fly from your friend’s forehead. — Chinese proverb
3. He has the gall of a shoplifter returning an item for a refund. — W. I. E. Gates
4. Tact is the ability to describe others as they see themselves. — Mary Pettibone Poole
5. He could never see a belt without hitting below it. — Harriet Braiker