

Name: Class:..... Date:.....

Worksheet 1

Gerunds

A. Get to know

I. Definition

A gerund is the base form of the verb + *-ing*. It acts as a noun and can be in the subject or object position in a sentence.

Position	Example
1. as the subject of a sentence	Exercising just 30 minutes a day can lead to good heart health.
2. as the object of certain verbs	Many students avoid making outlines before they begin to write.
3. as the object of a preposition	Education majors look forward to helping students succeed.

II. Using Gerunds

Gerunds (and gerund phrases) are commonly used in academic writing. They are used:

1. as the subject of a sentence	Volunteering is one of several ways to acquire job experience.
2. as the object of a preposition	The study focused on finding new methods to detect cancer. Researchers are interested in conducting further studies.
3. as the object of certain verbs	People dislike speaking in public for several reasons.
4. as a noun after the verb be	Students stated their favorite weekend activity was sleeping late .
5. after by (to explain how something is done)	Participants were divided into two groups by selecting names at random from a longer, larger list.

Notes

1. Gerund subjects are always singular.
2. Common verb + preposition + gerund combinations include ask about, worry about, think of, count on, keep on, and succeed in.
3. Common adjective + preposition + gerund combinations include afraid of, good at, interested in, worried about, and responsible for.

III. Common Errors

Is the correct form used after a preposition?

Many newly arrived immigrants dream about to become rich	becoming
As late as the mid-1940s, many business owners were opposed to hire women.	hiring
Small business owners can expand their businesses by set specific goals.	setting

Remember:

- Use a gerund after a preposition.
- Use a gerund after a multi-word preposition (for example, opposed to).
- Use a gerund after by to show manner (for example, by setting specific goals).

B. Practice

Read the following sentences. Each sentence contains an error. Underline and correct the error by replacing it with a gerund.

- 1 There are a number of reasons that people who are used to work alone have a difficult time working on a team.
- 2 Students limit their chances of obtaining gainful employment by drop out of college before getting a degree.
- 3 Whereas in the past, many people looked forward to retire at age 65, many people today continue working past the age of 70.
- 4 People interested in learn about the health care profession should consider volunteering at a hospital or clinic.
- 5 Fear of failure is one reason people put off to do things that need to be done.
- 6 Due to health concerns, consumer advocates insist on to know which foods are genetically modified organisms (GMOs).
- 7 One can become an active listener by master four simple steps.
- 8 Local law enforcement is responsible for enforce local laws, investigating crimes, and protecting the local population.

Date:.....

Worksheet 2

Present Simple & Continuous

A. Get to know

present continuous (I am doing)

We use the continuous for things happening at or around the time of speaking.

The action is not complete.

- The water **is boiling**. Be careful.
- Listen to those people. What language **are they speaking**?
- Let's go out. It **isn't raining** now.
- I'm busy? What **are you doing**?
- I'm **getting** hungry. Let's go and eat.
- Kate wants to work in Italy, so she's **learning** Italian.
- The population of the world **is increasing** very fast.

We use the continuous for temporary situations (things that continue for a short time):

- I'm **living** with some friends until I find a place of my own.
- A: You're **working** hard today.
B: Yes, I have a lot to do.

present simple (I do)

We use the simple for things in general or things that happen repeatedly.

- Water **boils** at 100 degrees Celsius.
- Excuse me, **do you speak** English?
- It **doesn't rain** very much in summer.
- What **do** you usually **do** at weekends?
- I always **get** hungry in the afternoon.
- Most people **learn** to swim when they are children.
- Every day the population of the world **increases** by about 200,000 people.

We use the simple for permanent situations (things that continue for a long time):

- My parents **live** in London. They have lived there all their lives.
- Joe isn't lazy. He **works** hard most of the time.

I always do and I'm always doing

I always do something = I do it every time:

- I **always go** to work by car. (*not* I'm always going)

I'm **always doing** something = I do it too often or more often than normal.

For example:

- I've lost my keys again. I'm **always** losing them.

- I'm always losing them = I lose them too often, or more often than normal.

- Paul is never satisfied. He's **always complaining**. (= he complains too much)

- You're **always looking** at your phone. Don't you have anything else to do?

B. Practice

1. Are the underlined verbs OK? Correct them where necessary.

- | | | |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 1 | Water <u>boils</u> at 100 degrees Celsius. | OK |
| 2 | How often <u>are you going</u> to the cinema? |do you go..... |
| 3 | Ben <u>tries</u> to find a job, but he hasn't had any luck. | ..... |
| 4 | Martina <u>is phoning</u> her mother everyday. | ..... |
| 5 | The moon <u>goes</u> around the earth about 27 days. | ..... |
| 6 | Can you hear those people? What <u>do they talk</u> about? | ..... |
| 7 | What <u>do you do</u> in your spare time? | ..... |
| 8 | Sarah is a vegetarian. She <u>doesn't eat</u> meat. | ..... |
| 9 | I must go now. It <u>gets</u> late | ..... |
| 10 | "Come on! It's time to leave" | ..... |
| | "OK, I <u>come</u>" | ..... |
| 11 | Paul is never late. He's <u>always starting</u> work on time. | ..... |
| 12 | They don't get on well. They're <u>always arguing</u>. | ..... |

2. Finish B's sentences. Use always - ing.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | A: I've lost my keys again.
B: Not again! You're always losing your keys |
| 2 | A: That car has broken down again.
B: That car is useless. It |
| 3 | A: Look! You've made the same mistake again.
B: Oh no, not again! I |
| 4 | A: Oh, I've left my phone at home again.
B: Typical! |