

Gerunds

Verbs are actions. This is something we already know. However, sometimes a word can look like a verb, but have a different role or function in a sentence. This is the case with gerunds.

If we look at the word *dancing*, we would think it is a verb. It is in fact the present participle of the verb *to dance*. If it is the action in the sentence, it is the verb.

For example:

She is dancing with Pascal.

However, if the word *dancing* is used as a noun in the sentence, you are dealing with a gerund.

Example:

Dancing is all Martin can think about. → In this sentence, *dancing* is not the verb (those would be *is* and *can think*).

You could replace *dancing* with any noun. Try it with “coffee”, or “Christmas”, or “Paul”.

So, gerunds are a present participle used as a noun. They are used for many reasons, including:

subject	Dancing makes Martin happy.
direct object	Martin loves dancing .
complement	Martin’s main interest in life is dancing .
object of a preposition	Martin got those muscular calves from dancing .
replace an infinitive	Martin loves dancing . Martin loves to dance .

- A. Tell me if the word in **bold** is a participle or a gerund. Write **the word participle** or **gerund** on the line.
1. You enjoy **living** in the city. _____
 2. **Flying** monkeys appeared in the movie The Wizard of Oz. _____
 3. Luigi was too afraid to go into the **freezing** cold water. _____
 4. Owen taught me the rules of **driving**. _____
 5. Fluid **reading** is a skill taught in school. _____
 6. Watch out for **falling** branches while taking a hike. _____
- B. Replace the infinitives in the sentence with a gerund.
1. Christine loves **to read**. _____
 2. Michael hates **to swim**. _____
 3. André loves **to sing**. _____
 4. Linda hates **to draw**. _____
 5. Arnold loves **to sleep**. _____
 6. Annie hates **to run**. _____