

GERUND PHRASE

WHAT IS A GERUND PHRASE?

It is a phrase that starts with a gerund and acts as a noun. To understand this better lets, define a gerund. A gerund is a verb that ends with -ing, but it functions as a noun .



SUBJECT

- **EXAMPLE:**
- **Driving** a car is not easy at all!
- **Running** keeps you in shape.
- **Smoking** is not good for your health.



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Running helps me clear my head. | 13. Being lazy is a bad idea. |
| 2. Eating healthy is important to me. | 14. Seeking help is not a sign of weakness. |
| 3. Talking on the phone is annoying. | 15. Asking for directions is not difficult. |
| 4. Studying is hard. | 16. Avoiding confrontation is often best. |
| 5. Paying attention is important. | 17. Feeling angry is normal. |
| 6. Dancing is a good way to exercise. | 18. Being sad is okay. |
| 7. Chewing gum is against school rules. | 19. Reacting with jealousy is human. |
| 8. Napping is refreshing. | 20. Admitting defeat can be |
| 9. Walking is good for you. | |
| 10. Crying is sad. Laughing is fun. | |
| 11. Hoping for the best is all we can do. | |
| 12. Working hard is the key to success. | |

Instructions: Let's imagine you work for a local newspaper, and you are in charge of the social column. The edition of tomorrow will be about the tips below (Target grammar: gerund as a subject).



6 Tips for
keeping your job



6 Tips for
Learning English
Effectively



6 Tips for
being healthy



I AM GOOD AT

Good at + ing form of verb

I am good at **playing** football.

You are good at **playing** basketball.

He is good at **writing**.

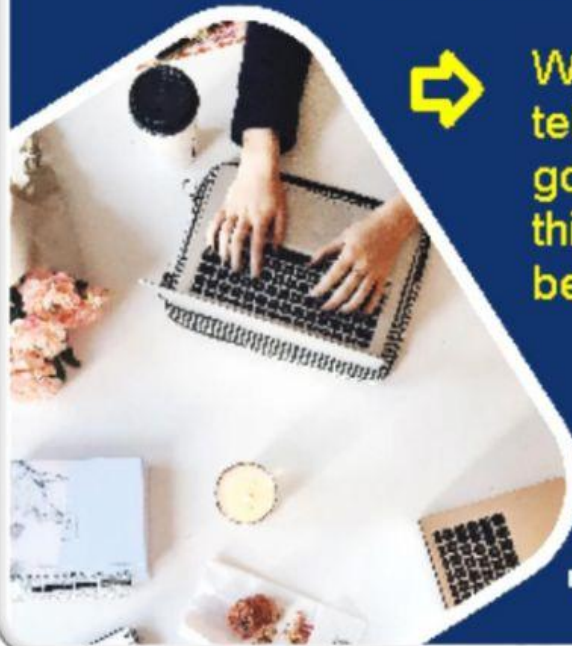
She is good at **making** sandwiches.

They are good at **solving** problems.



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From:

To:

Subject:

REMEMBER

PREPOSITIONS WITH GERUNDS

FOR
IN
ABOUT
FROM
TO

+ -ing

*A gerund is the -ing form of a verb used as a noun.

I apologize **for** **saying** that.

I'm interested **in** **learning** more.

We're excited **about** **visiting** a new place.

We stopped him **from** **crossing** the street.

I look forward **to** **meeting** you.



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TAKENOTE



GERUND AFTER A PREPOSITION



EXAMPLE:

We use gerunds when the verb is immediately after a preposition

- I went to the park **after** **going** to school.
- I will call you **before** **arriving** at the office.



Directions: Using the verbs in parentheses, choose the preposition and gerund to complete each sentence.

- 1) I believe _____ (tell) _____ the truth no matter what.
- 2) I wish the weather would get better. I am tired _____ (be) _____ inside all the time.
- 3) I do not go swimming because I am afraid _____ (drown) _____.
- 4) I don't know how to thank you _____ (help) _____ me.
- 5) Are you interested _____ (go) _____ to a bullfight?
- 6) I just can't get excited _____ (visit) _____ Disneyland for the third time in two years.
- 7) Why do you constantly worry _____ (please) _____ your parents?
- 8) Every summer, I look forward _____ (take) _____ a vacation with my family.
- 9) I apologize _____ (lie) _____, but I was trying to protect you from the truth. Sometimes the truth hurts.

- 10) Why do you always insist _____ (pay) _____
for everything when we go out for dinner?
- 11) I want you to know that I'm sorry. I don't know if you can ever forgive
me _____ (cause) _____ you so much
trouble.
- 12) I'm not very good _____ (remember) _____
names.
- 13) I am not happy in my work. I often dream _____ (quit) _____
my job.
- 14) How do you stop someone _____ (do) _____ something
you know is wrong?
- 15) Who is responsible _____ (spill) _____ these
beans all over the floor?
- 16) Anna made a lot of big mistakes at work. That's why she was afraid _____
(lose) _____ her job.
- 17) My students practiced the new topic before _____ (come) to
class today.
- 18) The supervisor changed the project after _____ (analyze) each
possible impact on the company.

USING *BY* AND *WITH* TO EXPRESS HOW SOMETHING IS DONE

(a) Pat turned off the tape recorder **by pushing** the stop button.

By + a gerund is used to express how something is done.

(b) Mary goes to work **by bus**.

(c) Andrea stirred her coffee **with a spoon**.

By or **with** followed by a noun is also used to express how something is done.

BY IS USED FOR MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

by (air)plane*

by boat

by bus

by car

by subway**

by taxi

by train

by foot (OR on foot)

by mail

by (tele)phone

by fax

by e-mail

by air

by land

by sea

OTHERS

by chance

by choice

by mistake

by hand***

by check (but in cash)

by credit card

By + gerund to describe how to do things

You could improve your accent **by watching** movies.

I learn new words best **by writing** them down and **reviewing** them many times.

The best way to learn slang is not **by watching** the news but **by watching** TV series.

GRAMMAR PLUS see page 119

EXERCISE 17. BY + a gerund. (Chart 13-6)

Directions: Complete the following by using **by + a gerund**. Use the words in the list or your own words.

eat

drink

guess

smile

stay

take

wag

wash

watch

wave

✓ write

- Students practice written English by writing compositions.
- We clean our clothes _____ them in soap and water.
- Khalid improved his English _____ a lot of TV.
- We show other people we are happy _____.
- We satisfy our hunger _____ something.
- We quench our thirst _____ something.
- I figured out what "quench" means _____.
- Alex caught my attention _____ his arms in the air.
- My dog shows me she is happy _____ her tail.
- Carmen recovered from her cold _____ in bed and _____ care of herself.



SITUATION: Let's imagine you read an advertisement, on the bulletin board of your company, and it pretends to gather ideas on how employees could feel more motivated at work. Explain from 4-5 ideas on the next management meeting and if your ideas are selected you will be given \$10.000 as a bonus. Remember, use by+ gerund and explain your proposals.



NOTES



(Just write clue words)