PREPARING FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE

Our Family's Skills for the New Year's Celebration

Every December 31st, my family works together to prepare a special New Year's celebration at home, and everyone uses their best skills! My sister **is good at decorating** the house with balloons and lights, and **so am I.** We both **love choosing** festive colors for the living room. My mom **enjoys cooking** traditional dishes, and **so does my dad**, they **are** both **interested in preparing** delicious desserts for midnight. My brother **is great at** organizing the music playlist, but I'm not; I **prefer taking** photos of the family. Of course, there are a few chores nobody likes. My sister **isn't good at washing dishes**, and **neither am I!** Also, my dad **can't stand shopping** in crowded supermarkets on December 31st, and neither can my mom, so we always buy groceries a few days early. Even though we **hate cleaning** up the next morning, we **don't mind helping** each other because celebrating together is wonderful.



GRAMMAR EXPLANATION: GERUNDS & SHORT RESPONSES (SO / NEITHER)

Statement Type	Example with Gerund (-ing)	Short Response: AGREE	Short Response: DISAGREE
Affirmative (Verb: love, enjoy, like, hate)	I love decorating the house. My mom enjoys cooking.	So do I. So does my dad.	I don't. Really? I like it.
Affirmative (Verb to be: good at, interested in)	My sister is good at decorating. I'm interested in baking.	So am I. So is my brother.	Oh, I'm not. Well, I'm not.
Negative (don't mind / doesn't like)	I don't mind helping out. She doesn't like shopping.	Neither do I. Neither does my mom.	I do. Really? I love it.
Negative (Verb to be: not good at)	My sister isn't good at washing dishes. I'm not good at singing.	Neither am I. Neither is my brother.	Well, I am. Oh, I am.
Negative (Modal: can't stand)	My dad can't stand shopping in crowds. I can't stand waiting.	Neither can I. Neither can my mom.	Oh, I don't mind it. Really? I don't mind.
Gerund Rule	Use verb + -ing after verbs of preference (love, like, enjoy, hate, don't mind, can't stand) AND after prepositions (good at, interested in).	Use So + auxiliary + subject to agree with affirmative statements.	Use Neither + auxiliary + subject to agree with negative statements.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

GRAMMAR PRACTICE EXERCISES: GERUNDS & SHORT RESPONSES

Exercise 1: Complete the sentences with the gerund (-ing) form of the verbs in parentheses.

1. My sister is very good at _____ (decorate) the house for New Year's Eve.
2. My parents enjoy _____ (cook) traditional food for the whole family.
3. I'm interested in _____ (learn) how to bake a New Year's cake this year.
4. My brother doesn't mind _____ (organize) the music and lights for the party.
5. We all hate _____ (clean) up the living room on January 1st!

Exercise 2: Write short responses to AGREE with each statement using 'So...' or 'Neither...'.

1. A: My sister is good at decorating the house. → B: _____ (I)
2. A: I love celebrating New Year's Eve with my family. → B: _____ (I)
3. A: My dad can't stand shopping in crowded stores. → B: _____ (my mom)
4. A: I'm not good at singing karaoke. → B: _____ (my brother)
5. A: My mom enjoys making desserts. → B: _____ (my dad)

Exercise 3: Circle the correct short response (agreeing or disagreeing) to complete each dialogue.

1. A: I'm good at taking party photos. — B: (So am I / So do I). Let's take pictures at midnight!
2. A: I don't mind washing the dishes after dinner. — B: (Neither do I / So do I). It's easy if we work together.
3. A: I hate staying up until midnight. — B: (Really? I love it / Neither do I)! Watching the fireworks is my favorite part.
4. A: I'm not interested in dancing tonight. — B: (Neither am I / Neither can I). I prefer talking and eating snacks.
5. A: I can't stand listening to loud fireworks. — B: (Neither can I / So can I). They are way too noisy.

Exercise 4: Write sentences about your own skills and preferences for a family celebration.

1. Write one thing you are good at doing for a party (use 'good at + gerund'):
   → _____
2. Write one activity you enjoy or love doing with your family (use 'enjoy / love + gerund'):
   → _____
3. Write one chore you aren't good at or can't stand doing (use 'not good at / can't stand + gerund'):
   → _____
4. Write a sentence comparing your skill with a family member using '...and so am I' or '...and neither am I':
   → _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS