

GERUNDS

Gerund is a noun form of a verb that ends in -ing. Gerunds are a flexible, useful type of word because they enable us to speak and write about actions in a more abstract way, positioning those actions as reasons for specific outcomes, hobbies, and receivers of subject's actions.

Gerunds are verbs in the present participle form. This means they are the root verb + "ing".

- Seeing
- Cramming
- Wondering
- Flipping
- Skipping
- Chatting

To be a gerund, a verb has to act as a noun in its sentence. Present participle verbs are not gerunds when they describe the action in a sentence.

First Usage: Gerund as Subject

When the gerund is performing the action in the sentence, it's functioning as the subject. For example, in the sentence "Exercising keeps you healthy," the word "**exercising**" is performing the action "keeps."

- **Cooking** is my favorite hobby.
- **Reading** mystery book helps you to think better.
- **Swimming** is a good exercise for all the body.

Second Usage: Gerund as Object

When the gerund is receiving the action in the sentence, it is working as the direct object. For example, in the sentence "John enjoys grilling," the gerund "grilling" answers the question "What does John enjoy?" Some verbs that can be used before the gerund are: love, like, enjoy, mind, feel like, imagine, practice, keep and continue.

- I like **cooking** desserts.
- My family love **spending** time together.
- They enjoy **baking** cookies.

Rules

#1- Gerunds as nouns

- He enjoys **drinking** coffee
- She loves **listening** to music.

#2- Some verbs can be followed by both gerunds and infinitives with no change in meaning. Like continue, hate, like, begin, prefer and start.

- I hate **cleaning**.
- I hate **to clean**.

#4- Some verbs can be followed by both gerunds and infinitives BUT the meaning changes

- He stopped **smoking**
This means that he smoked for a time but then he quit
- He stopped **to smoke**
This means that he took a break from something else he was doing to have a cigarette

Other verbs that can be used in this rule are:

- Regret
- Forget
- Try

#5- Gerunds as Objects of Prepositions: This means that prepositions must always be followed by a noun. Such as: afraid of, interested in, tired of, worried about.

- I am interested **in teaching**.
- You can achieve your goals **by working** hard.

Third Usage: Gerunds with nouns and Special Expressions

We need to put a noun after a preposition. Gerunds act as nouns, so after a preposition, we can also put a gerund.

There are many expressions that are commonly followed by a gerund. Let's take a look at the most common ones.

- She is **excited about going** to the party.
- I am not **worried about losing** my job.
- We are not **responsible for dealing** with customer complaints.

With special expressions: Some common nouns are often followed by gerunds. For example: fun, difficulty, experience, problem and trouble.

- I had **fun** playing the video game.
- Did you have **difficulty** finding the house?

And other expressions with time and money are often followed by gerunds. They occur with these verbs: spend, waste, and have

- She didn't **spend** time exercising last week.
- Do not **waste** money buying new cars.

EXERCISES

Series I: Drag the correct expression/word.

1. I listening to loud music.

Spend time

Enjoy

Can't bear

2. She is crazy reading romantic poems.

About

To

with

3. You should smoking.

Left

Give up

Stop

4. I've cooking come and eat!

Finished

Finish

Ended

5. Amelia being happy. She is the best person I know.

Needs

Wants to be

Deserves

Series II: Match each sentence with its rule.

He began to talk.
He began talking.

Gerunds as Subjects
and Objects

I tried calling you last night.
I tried to call you last night.

Gerunds with nouns
and Special Expressions

I've always had a hard time losing weight.

Gerunds and infinitives with
no change in meaning.

I'm tired of waiting for the bus.

Gerund as Objects of
Prepositions

Keep practicing. Your skills will
improve.

Gerunds and infinitives and
the meaning changes.