

Gerunds and Gerund Phrases A

5g. A **gerund** is a verb form ending in *-ing* that is used as a noun.

EXAMPLES **Spelunking** is a wonderful adventure. [subject of the verb *is*]
 We could hear the distant **rumbling** of thunder. [direct object of the verb *could hear*]
 We should give **rafting** another try. [indirect object of the verb *should give*]

5h. A **gerund phrase** consists of a gerund and any modifiers or complements the gerund has. The entire phrase is used as a noun.

EXAMPLES One of the president's duties is **serving as commander in chief**. [predicate nominative identifying one of the president's duties]
 The settlers cleared part of the land by **burning down the forest**. [object of the preposition *by*]

EXERCISE A Underline the gerund in each of the following sentences.

Example 1. The sharp clanging of the bell alerted the students.

1. Jackie saved money for the trip by grooming horses at a local stable.
2. Training a pet to obey simple commands can be difficult.
3. Jerry's phobia is speaking to large crowds.
4. Sarah believes in saving money for the future.
5. The annoying rooster enjoys crowing outside my window.

EXERCISE B Underline the gerund phrase in each of the following sentences. Then, above each gerund phrase, write *S* for *subject*, *PN* for *predicate nominative*, *DO* for *direct object*, *IO* for *indirect object*, or *OP* for *object of a preposition*. If a sentence does not contain a gerund phrase, write *none* after the sentence.

Example 1. ^S
Traveling to distant places is easier today than it was two hundred years ago.

6. Flying in an airplane sounds dangerous, but it is actually quite safe.
7. A far more dangerous activity is driving a car.
8. Some drivers endanger others as well as themselves by recklessly disobeying traffic laws.
9. David's family is taking a train to New York this summer.
10. For our next vacation we may give riding on a train a try.
11. Watching the countryside roll by from the window of a train would be fun.
12. My sister votes for driving to Seattle, Washington, in an RV.
13. Preston heard the crashing of the surf.
14. Traveling across the country takes a lot of time.
15. Wherever we go on our vacation, my aunt is coming with us.

Gerunds and Gerund Phrases B

5g. A **gerund** is a verb form ending in *-ing* that is used as a noun.

EXAMPLES **Playing** chess well requires concentration. [subject of the verb *requires*]
My sister Tyra has started **collecting** rocks. [direct object of the verb *has started*]

5h. A **gerund phrase** consists of a gerund and any modifiers or complements the gerund has. The entire phrase is used as a noun.

EXAMPLES Before Martin became a journalist, he had given **becoming an English teacher** serious thought. [indirect object of the verb *had given*]
When did Tori Murden fulfill her dream of **rowing solo across the Atlantic Ocean**?
[object of the preposition *of*]

EXERCISE A Underline the gerund in each of the following sentences.

Example 1. The rumbling of Joe's stomach told us it was time to eat.

- Larry was intent on watching every movie in our video collection in one weekend.
- My sister is responsible for cleaning the garage.
- Deanna's powerful speaking caused the audience to erupt in applause.
- The difficult aspect of the workout program is getting up at four in the morning.
- The cacophonous clanking of the car's engine could be heard from blocks away.

EXERCISE B Underline the gerund phrase in each of the following sentences. Then, above each gerund, write *S* for *subject*, *PN* for *predicate nominative*, *DO* for *direct object*, *IO* for *indirect object*, or *OP* for *object of a preposition*. If a sentence does not contain a gerund phrase, write *none* after the sentence.

Example 1. ^S The barking of the menacing dog caused the cat to flee from the yard.

- Theresa began her report on Medieval Europe with an interesting question.
- When he was five, the musical prodigy started playing the piano.
- Plato gave fishing for rainbow trout another chance.
- Jack's parents supported his dream of winning a gold medal.
- The charging rhinoceros on the video frightened the kindergartners.
- Among other sports, Li enjoys snorkeling in the ocean.
- The teacher noted that Paul has a love of reading poems and writing them.
- His strongest event in the track meet was running hurdles.
- At sunrise the girls began raking the golden leaves.
- One popular hobby is collecting baseball cards.

Participle or Gerund?

Both present participles and gerunds end in *-ing*. To avoid confusing these two verb forms, remember that a present participle functions as an adjective or as part of a verb phrase and that a gerund functions as a noun.

- EXAMPLES** Brian is in his room, **writing** in his journal. [present participle modifying the noun *Brian*.]
 Brian is **writing** in his journal. [part of the verb phrase is *writing*.]
 Brian enjoys **writing** in his journal. [gerund used as the direct object of the verb *enjoys*.]

EXERCISE A In each of the following sentences, identify the underlined word as a *participle* or *gerund*. If the underlined word is part of the verb phrase, write *verb* on the line provided.

- Example** participle 1. The dancing duo amazed the audience with their flawless routine.
 _____ 1. Planning ahead, David carried an umbrella to school.
 _____ 2. The zoning committee would not allow a strip mall to be built next to the park.
 _____ 3. The tireless beavers were building a dam across the stream.
 _____ 4. Brian likes racing remote-controlled cars.
 _____ 5. The restless boy was fidgiting throughout the entire movie.

EXERCISE B Use each of the following words as a gerund or a participle. The gerund or participle may be a single word or part of a phrase.

- Example** 1. writing (gerund) Ben enjoys writing to his pen pal in Italy.
 6. jumping (participle) _____

 7. swimming (gerund) _____

 8. feeling (participle) _____

 9. seeing (participle) _____

 10. tasting (gerund) _____
