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# Verbals

A verbal is a word that is typically a verb but is being used as a different part of speech in a sentence

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# Gerunds

Verbs that act like nouns

Christina enjoys **listening** to music.

Listening comes from the verb **listen**.

Listen is not the verb of the sentence. **Enjoys** is the verb.

**Listening to music** is what the subject enjoys doing. It RECIEVES the action. It is being used as a "thing," making it a noun.

Gerunds must end in **-ing**

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Just because a word ends in -ing, doesn't automatically mean it's a gerund.

Make sure it's not the verb of the sentence first by finding the action of the sentence.

- The aquarium *needs* a good **cleaning**. = GERUND
- I **am cleaning** the aquarium thoroughly. = NOT A GERUND
- Cayden *is thinking* about **studying** abroad. = GERUND
- Cayden **is studying** abroad next year. = NOT A GERUND

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**Can you find the gerunds below?**

1. Gabby is interested in becoming a lawyer.
2. My son loves playing with his toy dinosaur.
3. The doctor gave studying all of his attention.
4. Singing is a calming activity.
5. Talking over others upsets the teacher.

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**Can you find the gerunds below?**

1. Gabby is interested in becoming a lawyer.
2. My son loves playing with his toy dinosaur.
3. The doctor gave studying all of his attention.
4. Singing is a calming activity. (calming is an adjective)
5. Talking over others upsets the teacher.

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## Gerund Phrase

A phrase that contains a gerund and includes all modifiers or objects associated with it

- Gabby is interested in becoming a lawyer.
- My son loves playing with his toy dinosaur.

Replace the gerund phrase with the word **it**, to check if it makes sense

Quitting smoking seemed impossible.

It seemed impossible.

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**Can you find the gerund phrase?**

1. Buying a movie ticket was my mother's job.
2. Hunter talks about saving money to buy a new car.
3. I'm sick of eating cafeteria food.
4. Renting an apartment would be expensive.
5. Traveling to France is a dream of Arie's.

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## Different Types of Nouns:

- Subject
- Direct object
- Predicate nominative
- Object of the preposition

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## Subject

Subject: who or what is doing the action

**Betty** broke her promise.

(**Broke** is the verb. **Betty** is the subject.)

Gerund as the subject:

**Whining** will not get you any favors.

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## Direct Object

Direct object: who or what receives the action

Betty broke her **promise**.

(**Broke** is the verb. **Promise** is the direct object.)

Gerund as the direct object:

That toddler loves stomping through the store.

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## Predicate Nominative

Predicate Nominative, also called a Predicate Noun: a noun or pronoun that directly follows a linking verb and renames the subject. You should be able to replace the linking verb with "equals."

Ryan **was** frustrated.     Ryan **=** frustrated.

(**Was** is the linking verb. **Frustrated** is the predicate nominative.)

Gerund as the predicate nominative:

A good career for me is **nursing**.

A good career for me = nursing.

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## Object of the Preposition

Object of Preposition: the noun or pronoun that comes after a preposition.

Keep the secret *between* **us**.

(**Keep** is the verb. **Between** is the preposition. **Us** is the object of the preposition.)

Gerund as the object of the preposition:

Jenny plans **on swimming** for exercise.

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**What type of noun is the gerund phrase acting as? The gerund phrase is underlined.**

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1. The aquarium needs a good cleaning.
2. Studying abroad costs a lot of money.
3. My favorite sport is skiing.
4. I am interested in going green.

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What type of noun is the gerund phrase acting as? The gerund phrase is underlined.

1. The aquarium needs a good cleaning.

Direct object

2. Studying abroad costs a lot of money.

Subject

3. My favorite sport is skiing.

Predicate Nominative

4. I am interested in going green.

Object of the preposition

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Name:

Date:

## Gerunds

**Part 1: Circle the gerund in each sentence if there is one. If there is no gerund in the sentence, write none on the line.**

1. Sledding down the hill in the snow is fun. \_\_\_\_\_
2. He is singing in the concert. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Benji failed at hitting the piñata, and hit her brother instead. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Making plans is difficult when you're very busy. \_\_\_\_\_
5. I am waiting on my brother to take a shower first. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The crew had trouble with fixing the roof because of the rain. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Scott's attitude about studying for school improved with time. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The bus is leaving at 3:00 PM sharp! \_\_\_\_\_
9. Sophia enjoys jumping on the trampoline. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Joe was punished for lying. \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 2: Underline the gerund phrase.**

1. Thinking positively can change your whole day.
2. Painting portraits is a favorite hobby of mine.
3. Jonah forgot about cleaning his room yesterday.
4. Katie admitted cheating on the test.
5. Ireland doesn't allow smoking in bars.
6. We are planning on going to the football game tonight.
7. After watching Star Wars, he went to bed.
8. Can we celebrate getting a job tonight at dinner?
9. In the summer, Kara prefers swimming.
10. I can't help complaining about the cold weather so much.
11. The test is on identifying active and passive voice.
12. Reading is an important skill.



**Part 3: Circle the gerund that is acting as the object of the preposition.**

1. My friend is good at playing volleyball.
2. She complains about bullying.
3. They are afraid of losing the match.
4. We are looking forward to going on vacation.
5. Laura dreams of living on a small island.

**Part 4: Circle the gerund that is acting as the subject.**

1. Dancing is great fun.
2. Cooking is stressful.
3. Blowing on hot soup cools it down.
4. Doing homework is boring.
5. Working from home allows a person to work in comfort.

**Part 5: Circle the gerund that is acting as the direct object.**

1. I enjoy reading books in my free time.
2. Some people love gossiping.
3. Joining the military requires getting your hair cut to a short length.
4. Bernie hates solving math word problems.
5. Patrick loves photographing nature.

**Part 6: Circle the gerund that is acting as the predicate nominative/noun.**

1. The best way to calm down is listening to music.
2. A healthy sport is swimming.
3. John's favorite chore is walking the dog.
4. My father's occupation was farming.
5. Some dreams of mine are traveling, snowboarding, and surfing.

Name:

Date:

## Gerunds & Types of Nouns

Which noun is the gerund phrase acting like? Object of the preposition (OP), predicate nominative (PN), subject (S), or the direct object (DO)? Write your answer on the line.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Andrew apologized for **being late**.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. I can't bear **having so much responsibility**.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. My favorite activity is **using my smartphone**.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. **Studying online** is very convenient.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The girls insisted on **going out with Kerry**.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The team practiced **running on Friday**.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. **Filing papers** can give you a paper cut.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Edward often thinks of **climbing trees**.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. My family doesn't appreciate **my singing**.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. **Texting while driving** is dangerous.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. His favorite sport is **wrestling**.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. We gave our consent in **writing**.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. They called **my guitar playing** brilliant.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. For most birds, **flying** is a way to escape predators.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Maria won the competition by **singing a nursery rhyme song**.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Jenny likes **dancing in the rain**.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. **Laughing** is the best calorie burner.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. My top priority was **organizing my closet**.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. **Climbing** is not as easy as it looks.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. I anticipate **arriving late to the concert**.

Name:

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## Gerunds Answer Key

**Part 1: Circle the gerund in each sentence if there is one. If there is no gerund in the sentence, write none on the line.**

1. Sledding down the hill in the snow is fun. \_\_\_\_\_
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3. Benji failed at hitting the piñata, and hit her brother instead. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Making plans is difficult when you're very busy. \_\_\_\_\_
5. I am waiting on my brother to take a shower first. none
6. The crew had trouble with fixing the roof because of the rain. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Scott's attitude about studying for school improved with time. \_\_\_\_\_
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- DO 2. I can't bear **having so much responsibility**.
- PN 3. My favorite activity is **using my smartphone**.
- S 4. **Studying online** is very convenient.
- OP 5. The girls insisted on **going out with Kerry**.
- DO 6. The team practiced **running on Friday**.
- S 7. **Filing papers** can give you a paper cut.
- OP 8. Edward often thinks of **climbing trees**.
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- S 17. **Laughing** is the best calorie burner.
- PN 18. My top priority was **organizing my closet**.
- S 19. **Climbing** is not as easy as it looks.
- DO 20. I anticipate **arriving late to the concert**.