

# Gerunds

## Worksheet 152

Verbals are words formed from verbs but that are never used as verbs in sentences. Verbals act as other parts of speech. There are three kinds of verbals: gerunds, participles, and infinitives.

A gerund is a verb form that ends in –ing and is used as a noun. A gerund ends in –ing. It may be used in any way that a noun is used.

*Jogging* is very popular now. (subject)

Keith enjoys *fishing*. (direct object)

I am tired of *practicing*. (object of the preposition)

A gerund can have an object. It can also be modified by adverbs, adjectives, and prepositional phrases. A gerund with all its objects and modifiers forms a gerund phrase. The entire gerund phrase is used as a noun.

Jennifer tried *making pottery*. (*Making* is a gerund; *pottery* is its object. The gerund phrase is the direct object of *tried*.)

*Digging for clams* was fun. (*Digging* is a gerund; *for clams* is a prepositional phrase modifying *Digging*. The gerund phrase is the subject of the verb *was*.)

**Identifying Gerunds.** Underline each gerund or gerund phrase. Write whether it is used as a subject, direct object, or object of a preposition.

1. Elephants have excellent hearing. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The band raised money by washing cars. \_\_\_\_\_
3. We thanked Ted for finding the dog. \_\_\_\_\_
4. I like reading mysteries. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The driver avoided a collision by turning sharply. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Speaking another language is an advantage. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Thank you for listening. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Dieting requires self-discipline. \_\_\_\_\_
9. The crew completed the filming in a month and a half. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Flying a glider must be difficult. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Kristin is good at solving math problems. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Roller skating is good exercise. \_\_\_\_\_
13. Robin stays in shape by playing tennis. \_\_\_\_\_
14. Stella enjoys planning parties. \_\_\_\_\_
15. Leonardo da Vinci invented shoes for walking on water. \_\_\_\_\_

## Gerunds and Gerund Phrases

A gerund is a verb form ending in –ing that is used as a noun. Like nouns, gerunds are used as subjects, predicated nominatives, direct objects, or objects of prepositions.

Subject: Walking is a good exercise.

Predicate Nominative: My favorite exercise is walking.

Object of preposition: I feel good after walking.

Direct object: Pablo loves walking.

A gerund phrase contains a gerund and any modifiers or complements it may have. The entire gerund phrase acts as a noun.

Finding a good place for a walk is simple. [The gerund phrase is the subject of the verb *is*. The noun *place* is the direct object of the gerund *finding*. The adjective *good* and the adjective phrase *for a walk* modify the noun *place*.]

**Exercise A** Underline each gerund in the following sentences. Then, above each underlined item, identify the gerund as *S* (subject) *PN* (predicate nominative), *DO* (direct object), or *OP* (object of a preposition).

Example: 1. Instead of driving, (OP) let's walk.

1. Her laughing attracted my attention.
2. By studying, you can improve your grades.
3. Why did the birds stop chirping?
4. Frowning, Dad said that we had to finish our work before we could begin skating.
5. Yvette's favorite exercise is hiking.

**Exercise B** Underline each gerund in the following sentences. Then, above each underlined item, identify the gerund as *S* (subject) *PN* (predicate nominative), *DO* (direct object), or *OP* (object of a preposition).

Example: 1. I enjoyed reading about Jane Addams. (DO)

1. Founding Hull House in Chicago in 1889 was one of Addam's greatest achievements.
2. She began her work by obtaining a large building to house the community center.
3. Her work was encouraging young men and women in immigrant neighborhoods.
4. They enriched their lives by going to the community center.
5. Discovering help and empathy gave many poor immigrants courage.