

Unit 14

Gerunds and Participles

Gerund = Verb + *ing* used as a noun

I enjoy reading.

Reading is easier than **writing**.

Exercise 1

Gerunds used as subjects:

- 1) Underline the gerunds.
- 2) Write **S** above the subjects.
- 3) Write **V** above the verbs and **AV** above the auxiliary verbs.

Example: Driving during a storm can be a challenge.

1. Writing a good introduction will get the reader's attention.
2. Signing autographs is a common activity for celebrities. (**Note:** *Gerunds take singular verbs.*)
3. Eating in restaurants has some advantages over eating at home.
4. Drinking bottled water is usually safe.

Exercise 2

Gerunds that come after prepositions are objects of prepositions

- 1) Circle the prepositions.
- 2) Underline the gerunds.

Example: My brother is good at fixing computers.

1. We complained to our neighbor because we were tired of listening to all the noise.
2. His boss talked to him about finishing the project.

Exercise 3

Note: Sometimes a verb-*ing* is not a gerund (noun). It can be a present participle that is an adjective. (An adjective describes a noun.)

- Write *gerund* or *participle* for each underlined word.

- _____ 1. Traveling all over Europe helped Tom understand some new cultures.
- _____ 2. The crying baby alerted us to the problem.
- _____ 3. We got little sleep last night because of the barking dog.
- _____ / _____ 4. They insisted on singing even though I said that dancing is more fun.
- _____ 5. I celebrated last night when I learned that I had the winning ticket.

Exercise 4

Write three sentences with a gerund as the subject.

Exercise 5

1) Write three sentences with a preposition and gerund in a prepositional phrase.

2) Circle the prepositions

3) Underline the gerunds.

Exercise 6

Write sentences using the cues.

Example: (cue: working + noun) Working mothers sometimes need help with child care.
(participle) (noun)

Example: (cue: frightening + noun) I seldom watch frightening movies at night.
(participle) (noun)

1. cue: falling leaves:
(participle) (noun)

2. cue: burning _____:
(participle) (noun)

3. cue: smoking _____:
(participle) (noun)

4. cue: crying _____:
(participle) (noun)