GERUNDS

WHAT IS A GERUND?
A gerund is the –ing form of a verb. This –ing verb functions as a noun. Therefore, a gerund can do whatever a noun does.

*Jogging helps you lose weight.*
Jogging, formed from the verb “jog,” is the subject of the sentence and functions as a noun.

WHAT IS A GERUND PHRASE?
A gerund phrase is a phrase that begins with a gerund and includes objects or modifiers.
It functions as a noun.

*Jogging for thirty minutes every day helps you lose weight.*
Here "jogging for thirty minutes" is the gerund phrase and functions as the subject of the sentence.

GERUND USAGE:

- **Subject:** the gerund in this example acts as the subject.
  *Writing is a necessary part of college.*

- **Direct object:** a gerund phrase acts as the direct object.
  *I like *partying with my friends* on the weekends.*

- **Subject complement:** a gerund acts as a complement to the subject.
  *That swim in the ocean was *exhausting.*

- **Object of a preposition:** a gerund acts as an object of a preposition.
  *I am interested in *going to the museum.*
BE CAREFUL NOT TO CONFUSE GERUNDS WITH PARTICIPLES.
Unlike a gerund, which always functions as a noun, a participle is the form of a verb when it functions as an adjective. Examples:

- **Participle:** While **driving**, Cathy got an eyelash in her eye and crashed.
  Here “driving” modifies Cathy and acts as an adjective.

- **Gerund:** **Driving** is not easy when it rains.
  Here “driving” is the subject, thus making it a gerund.

- **Participle:** **Swimming** through the ocean, the whale searched for a mate.
  Here “swimming” modifies the whale, making it an adjective.

- **Gerund:** The whale enjoyed **swimming through the waves**.
  Here “swimming” is the direct object.