



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.



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