**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.