

# 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.