

Gerunds

Gerunds, often known as ‘-ing’ words, are forms of verbs that can act like nouns. Gerunds can also be the object of a preposition or the object of another verb. But remember that not all words formed with ‘-ing’ are gerunds.

1. Gerunds as the subject of a sentence. Like nouns, gerunds can be the subject of a sentence.

Examples:

- **Smoking** is not healthy and it also costs a lot of money
- **Cooking** is one of my hobbies
- **Finding** a parking space is really difficult in this part of the city.

2. Prepositions followed by a Gerund. Verbs take the ‘-ing’ form when they follow a preposition.

Examples:

- I am good at **working** in teams.
- She went home after **leaving** the party.
- Everybody can improve their English by **practicing**.
- You can't learn without **making** mistakes

3. At, after, by, and without are all prepositions. There are also some phrases that contain a verb and a preposition and they are also followed by a gerund. For example ‘apologize for’, ‘complain about’ ‘dream about/of’ ‘look forward to’ ‘talk about’ ‘think of’ ‘worry about’

Examples:

- I **apologize for being** late.
- Students always **complain about doing** homework.
- She has always **dreamt of becoming** an actress.
- We **look forward to seeing** you soon.
- They **talk about travelling** to Egypt every time they meet.
- You should **think of quitting** that job.
- He **worries about not passing** his driving test.

4. Gerunds as the object of a verb: Some verbs can take a gerund as their objects. Here are some examples of verbs followed by a gerund.

Examples:

- The student admitted cheating on the test.
- Christine avoids flying as much as she can.
- They keep saying things are wrong but they don't do anything about it.

Other common verbs followed by a gerund are: **enjoy, detest, don't mind, imagine, feel like, suggest, practice, miss and can't stand.**

*Many other examples of the use of gerunds can be found in the articles of **TeaTime Magazine**. Here we present some of these examples. Challenge yourself and try to find more!!!*

Crossing the gates into the western Serengeti, the landscape quickly changes from rows of Coca-Cola and Sprite faced buildings to endless straw shaded fields.

(On the Road: Tales from a Tanzanian Adventure)

In making these decisions for our lives, do we cheat our families or do we cheat ourselves?

(Perspectives: Growing up Indian)

All of the pressures **of being** a first generation Indian-American begin at a young age.

(Perspectives: Growing up Indian)

Optimizing your brain's function is essential to **being** the best you can be, whether at work, in leisure, or in your relationships.

(Did you know? The Human Brain)

Laughing helps us reduce stress and break old patterns too.

(Did you know? The Human Brain)

Reviewing key information and then **sleeping on it** increases retention 20 to 30 percent.

(Did you know? The Human Brain)