

What Is a **Gerund**?

A **gerund** is a verb that can function as a **subject**, **direct object**, **indirect object**, and **objects of preposition**.

It is formed by adding an **-ing**..

Examples:

Apologizing to me isn't enough this time.

She is afraid of flying.

They are capable of doing hard work.

1. As a **Subject**

As a subject, it serves as the doer of the action and answers the question what.

Examples:

- a. Walking is good for your health.

In this example, it answers the question "What is good for your health?"

- b. Making friends has become more difficult since I moved to a new city.

What has become more difficult since I moved to a new city.

- c. Becoming a millionaire is a dream of many young people today.

Same as with this example, it answers the question "What is a dream of many young people today.?"

Practice: Create gerund sentences as subjects for the following.

- a. Dreaming

- b. Traveling

- c. Eating

- d. Sleeping

- e. Exercising

2. As a **Direct Object**

When the gerund is receiving the action in the sentence, it is working as the direct object. For example, in the sentence "Camille enjoys baking," the gerund "baking" answers the question "What does Camille enjoy?"

Examples:

- a. I enjoy **shopping** with friends.

What do I enjoy?

- b. My sister avoids **cooking** large dinners.
What does my sister avoid?
- c. The team practiced **kicking** into the goal.
What did the team practice?
- d. We don't mind **paying** for the car.
What don't we mind?
- e. She considered **quitting** her job.
What did she consider?

Practice: Create gerund sentences as direct objects for the following.

- a. skydiving

- b. hiking

- c. mountain climbing

- d. trekking

- e. cliff diving

3. As an **Indirect Object**

An indirect object indicates who, whom or what the action is directed toward.

Examples:

- a. I never gave exercising a try.
What did I never give a try?
- b. The instructor taught us dancing.
What did the instructor teach us?
- c. My niece spent her afternoon playing.
What did my niece spend her afternoon doing?
- d. He made biking his hobby.
What did he make as his hobby?
- e. Mr. Jackson gave singing a chance.
What did Mr. Jackson give a chance?

Exercise

Practice: Create gerund sentences as indirect objects for the following.

a. hiking

b. painting

c. swimming

d. wall climbing

e. broadcasting

4. As an **Object of Preposition**

When a gerund follows a preposition, it's an object of the preposition. For example, in the sentence "I express my thoughts by writing," the gerund "writing" is the object of the preposition "by."

Examples:

My love for dancing was immediate.

After working hard, we took a break.

Micah always talks about decorating.

They got in trouble for vandalizing.

Martin has received several job offers since graduating.

Practice: Create gerund sentences as an object of preposition for the following.

a. barking

b. scratching

c. bathing

d. entertaining

e. catching
