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Class/ Activity - 43

Gerunds

A verb form used as another part of speech is called a **verbal**. The three kinds of verbals are *gerunds*, *participles* and *infinitives*.

A **gerund** is a verb form usually ending in *d*, *ed*, or *ing* that is used as a noun.

Example: *Skating* is a fun. [The act of *skating* is the name of something. It is a noun.]

A **participle** is a verb form usually ending in *d*, *ed* or *ing* that is used as an adjective.

Example: A *rolling* stone gathers no moss. [*Rolling* describes stone.]

The *flickering* star is below the moon. [*Flickering* describes star.]

The *hunted* animal could get no rest. [*Hunted* modifies animal.]

An **infinitive** is the base form of the verb used as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb.

The infinitive is often preceded by *to*.

Example: *To skate* is fun. [Infinitive has been used as a noun]

She had no more energy *to give*. [Infinitive has been used as an adjective. *To give* modifies the noun energy.]

Uranium is dangerous *to handle*. [Infinitive has been used as an adverb. *To handle* modifies the adjective dangerous.]

Gerunds: Introduction

(a) *Playing* tennis is fun.  
S V

(b) We enjoy *playing* tennis.  
S V O

(c) He's excited about *playing* tennis.  
Prep O

A *gerund* is the -ing form of a verb used as a noun. A gerund is used in the same ways as a noun, i.e., as a subject or as an object.

In (a): **playing** is a gerund. It is used as the subject of the sentence.

**Playing tennis** is a *gerund phrase*.

In (b): **playing** is a gerund used as the object of the verb **enjoy**.

In (c): **playing** is a gerund used as the object of the preposition **about**.

Compare the uses of **-ing** form of verbs:

(1) **Walking** is good exercise.

→ **walking** = a gerund used as the subject of the sentence.

(2) Bobby and Roby are **playing** tennis.

→ **playing** = a present participle used as part of the present continuous tense.

(3) I have some **surprising** news.

→ **surprising** = a present participle used as an adjective.



Using gerunds as the objects of prepositions	
(a) We talked <b>about going</b> to Cox's Bazar for our vacation. (b) Sumon is in charge <b>of organizing</b> the meeting. (c) I'm interested <b>in learning</b> more about your work.	A gerund is frequently used as the object of a preposition.
(d) I'm <b>used to sleeping</b> with the window open. (e) I'm <b>accustomed to sleeping*</b> with the window open. (f) I <b>look forward to going</b> home next month. (g) They <b>object to changing</b> their plans at this late date.	In (d) through (g): <b>to</b> is a preposition, not part of an infinitive form, so a gerund follows.
(h) We <b>talked about not going</b> to the meeting, but finally decided we should go.	Negative form: <b>not</b> precedes a gerund.

\* Possible in British English: I'm **accustomed to sleep** with the window open.

**EXERCISE:** See how many of the preposition combinations you already know by completing these sentences with an appropriate preposition and verb form. Number 1 is done as an example is given.

- Alim isn't interested in (look) looking for a new job.
- Hasan is excited \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) \_\_\_\_\_ for India.
- You are capable \_\_\_\_\_ (do) \_\_\_\_\_ better work.
- I have no excuse \_\_\_\_\_ (be) \_\_\_\_\_ late.
- I'm accustomed \_\_\_\_\_ (have) \_\_\_\_\_ a big breakfast.
- The rain prevented us \_\_\_\_\_ (complete) \_\_\_\_\_ the work.
- Farid is always complaining \_\_\_\_\_ (have) \_\_\_\_\_ a headache.
- Instead \_\_\_\_\_ (study) \_\_\_\_\_, Masadul went to an adda with some of his friends.
- Thank you \_\_\_\_\_ (help) \_\_\_\_\_ me carry my suitcases.
- Mrs Parvin insisted \_\_\_\_\_ (know) \_\_\_\_\_ the whole truth.
- I believe \_\_\_\_\_ (be) \_\_\_\_\_ honest at all times.
- You should take advantage \_\_\_\_\_ (live) \_\_\_\_\_ here.
- Farhad had a good reason \_\_\_\_\_ (go, not) \_\_\_\_\_ to class yesterday.
- Everyone in the neighbourhood participated \_\_\_\_\_ (search) \_\_\_\_\_ for the lost child.

15. I apologized to Yeasin \_\_\_\_\_(make) \_\_\_\_\_his wait for me.
16. The weather is terrible tonight. I don't blame you \_\_\_\_\_(want, not) \_\_\_\_\_to go to the meeting.
17. Who is responsible \_\_\_\_\_ (wash) \_\_\_\_\_and (dry) \_\_\_\_\_ the dishes after dinner?
18. In addition \_\_\_\_\_(go) \_\_\_\_\_to school full time, Hero has a part time job.
19. I stopped the child \_\_\_\_\_ (run) \_\_\_\_\_ into the street.
20. Where should we go for dinner tonight? Would you object \_\_\_\_\_ (go) \_\_\_\_\_to an Italian restaurant?
21. The mayor made an another public statement for the purpose \_\_\_\_\_(clarify) \_\_\_\_\_the new tax proposal.
22. The thief was accused \_\_\_\_\_ (steal) \_\_\_\_\_a woman's purse.
23. The jury found Mr Sanwar guilty \_\_\_\_\_(take) \_\_\_\_\_money from the company he worked for and (keep) \_\_\_\_\_ it for himself.
24. Maria isn't used \_\_\_\_\_ (wear) \_\_\_\_\_a suit and tie every day.
25. I'm going to visit my family during the school vacation. I'm looking forward \_\_\_\_\_(eat) \_\_\_\_\_my mother's coking and (sleep) \_\_\_\_\_ in my own bed.

### Common Preposition Combinations Followed By Gerunds

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>be excited } <i>about</i> doing it</li> <li>be worried }</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>keep (someone) }</li> <li>prevent (someone) } <i>from</i> doing it</li> <li>prohibit (someone) }</li> <li>stop (someone) }</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>insist <i>on</i> doing it</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>complain }</li> <li>dream }</li> <li>talk }</li> <li>think }</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>believe }</li> <li>be interested }</li> <li>participate }</li> <li>succeed }</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>be accustomed }</li> <li>in addition }</li> <li>be committed }</li> <li>be devoted }</li> <li>look forward }</li> <li>object }</li> <li>be opposed }</li> <li>be used }</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>apologize }</li> <li>blame (someone) }</li> <li>forgive (someone) }</li> <li>have an excuse }</li> <li>have a reason }</li> <li>be responsible }</li> <li>thank (someone) }</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>be accused }</li> <li>be capable }</li> <li>for the purpose }</li> <li>be guilty }</li> <li>instead }</li> <li>take advantage }</li> <li>take care }</li> <li>be tired }</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>to</i> doing it</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>for</i> doing it</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>of</i> doing it</li> </ul>	

**EXERCISE:** Using the words in parentheses, complete the sentences. Number 1 is done as an example is given.

1. Koushik went to bed instead of finishing his work. (finish)
2. I thanked my friend \_\_\_\_\_ (lend)
3. I'm excited \_\_\_\_\_ (go)
4. I'm not accustomed \_\_\_\_\_ (live)
5. Omar didn't feel good. He complained \_\_\_\_\_ (have)
6. I don't blame you \_\_\_\_\_ (want, not)
7. I have a good reason \_\_\_\_\_ (be)
8. It's getting late. I'm worried \_\_\_\_\_ (miss)
9. I'm interested \_\_\_\_\_ (find out about)
10. I'm thinking \_\_\_\_\_ (go)
11. I apologized to my friend \_\_\_\_\_ (be)
12. I am/am not used \_\_\_\_\_ (drive)
13. Nothing can stop me \_\_\_\_\_ (go)
14. In that office, who is responsible \_\_\_\_\_ (take care of)
15. I look forward \_\_\_\_\_ (go)
16. The thief was guilty \_\_\_\_\_ (steal)
17. Shamim has two jobs. In addition \_\_\_\_\_ (work)
18. Please forgive me \_\_\_\_\_ (write, not)
19. Sarah is an honest person. She's not capable \_\_\_\_\_ (tell)
20. Ill health keeps my grandfather \_\_\_\_\_ (travel)

H M M G H S  
1874

**To teach is to learn twice.** \_ Joseph Joubert

*Reference:* 1. Betty Schramper Azar, *Understanding And Using English Grammar*, Third Edition, Pearson Education, 1999  
2. Adrian B. Sanford, *Using English Grammar and Writing Skill*, Fifth Edition, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1979