

# Gerunds

A gerund is a verb+ing. It works like a noun, not a verb.

It can be used as a subject.

- Learning is fun.

An object

- He's learning.

Or after a preposition

- I'm excited about learning.

We said that you can use a gerund as a subject. That means that when you want to take a verb and make it the subject of a sentence, you should change it into a gerund. Let's try.

(Study) grammar hurts my brain.

Studying grammar hurts my brain.

"Hurts" is the verb, right? WHAT hurts your brain?

We also said that you can use a gerund as an object. Remember, objects are really nouns, not verbs. Let's try some objects.

My dad quit (smoke).

My dad quit smoking.

Let's try some more.

The last way that we use gerunds is after a preposition. What's a preposition?

A preposition is a short word that tells you where, why, or how.

Examples: in, at, on, over, into, to, with, about, for, of, against, around, after, before, until, etc....

Find the preposition in the next sentence.

I'm thinking about buying a motorcycle.

Let's try some more. First, find the prepositions. Then change the verbs.

A gerund is a verb+ing. It works like a noun, not a verb.

It can be used as a subject:

- Swimming is fun.

An object:

- I like sleeping.

Or after a preposition:

- I'm excited about traveling.

Preposition!

We said that you can use a gerund as a subject. That means that when you when you want to take a verb and make it the subject of a sentence, you should change it into a gerund. Let's try.

(Study) grammar hurts my brain.

Studying grammar hurts my brain.

"Hurts" is the verb, right? WHAT hurts your brain?

Studying. Studying is the subject, so we need to use a gerund, not an infinitive.

(eat) ice cream is nice.

(listen) to your teacher is important.

(be) late makes your teacher mad.

Eating ice cream is nice.

Listening to your teacher is important.

Being late makes your teacher mad.

We also said that you can use a gerund as an object. Remember, objects are really nouns, not verbs. Let's try some objects.

Subject

Verb

Object



My dad quit (smoke).

Smoking is the object,  
so use a gerund



My dad quit smoking.

My favorite hobby is (take) photos.  
I didn't finish (write) my essay.  
I enjoyed (get) in trouble in high school.

My favorite hobby is taking photos.  
I didn't finish writing my essay.  
I enjoyed getting in trouble in high school.

These are objects,  
so use a gerund.

Here are some verbs that normally take gerunds as objects. Memorize them!

go shopping

enjoy talking

quit chatting

recommend visiting

discuss going

finish working

miss seeing

mind doing

postpone talking

put off writing

avoid finishing

keep working

imagine buying

The last way that we use gerunds is after  
a preposition. What's a preposition?

A preposition is a short word that tells you where, why, or how.

Examples: in, at, on, over, into, to, with, about, for, of, against, around, after, before, until, etc...

with, about, for, of, against,  
around, after, before, until, etc...

Find the preposition in the next sentence.

I'm thinking about buying a motorcycle.

Find the preposition in the next sentence.

I'm thinking about buying a motorcycle.

about

preposition

gerund

I'm thinking about buying a motorcycle.



I'm tired of (listen) to you.

You need to focus on (drive) right now.

She doesn't believe in (come) on time.

I'm tired of listening to you.

You need to focus on driving right now.

She doesn't believe in coming on time.