

Verbals: Gerund Phrases**Reteaching**

A **gerund** is a verb form that ends in *-ing* and acts as a noun. A **gerund phrase** consists of a gerund plus its modifiers and complements. Since a gerund is formed from a verb, it may have an object. Any object and its modifiers are part of the gerund phrase.

Basic cooking requires following simple directions.

In sentences, gerunds and gerund phrases may be used anywhere nouns may be used.

For me, locating the ingredients (*subject*) may take longer than putting them together (*object of preposition*).

I dislike beating eggs by hand (*direct object*).

My preference is using the electric beaters (*predicate nominative*).

A. Identifying Gerunds and Gerund Phrases

In each sentence, underline every gerund phrase once. Underline each gerund twice.

- George's specialty was making a perfect soufflé.
- Elise began by sifting four cups of wheat flour into a large bowl.
- Outdoor grilling is popular, especially in the summer.
- The most difficult task was kneading the dough to the proper consistency.
- Gary resents having clean-up duty after every holiday or other special occasion.
- There was no doubt about her winning the prize for best menu.
- Complimenting the cook is easy when the meal is delicious.
- Maria's assignment was selecting the perfect menu for the awards banquet.

B. Identifying Gerunds and Gerund Phrases

Underline each gerund or gerund phrase. On the blank to the right of each sentence, write **S** for a subject, **PN** for a predicate nominative, **DO** for a direct object, or **OP** for an object of a preposition.

- The circus performer's most popular feat was juggling seven bottles at once. PN
- Commercial fishing must be regulated to prevent depletion of fish populations. S
- The doctors were leery of increasing the dosage of the patient's medication. OP
- The teacher suggested reading the poem at least twice. DO
- The company prospers by producing software for a variety of businesses. OP
- An inventor's major concern is creating an invention that actually works. PN
- Giving to charity is encouraged by most religions. S
- By exercising regularly, people can improve their mental and physical health. OP
- Writing novels under an assumed name was not unusual in the 19th century. S
- Mechanization has dramatically altered traditional farming. DO

Gorgeous Gerunds

Directions: Identify the gerund phrase and tell how it is used in the sentence (subject, object, predicate nominative, or object of preposition)

1. ^S Their giggling annoyed the other viewers.
2. Virginia looks forward to ^{OP} fishing.
3. After ^{OP} studying, how do you relax?
4. ^S Jaywalking in heavy traffic is especially risky.
5. Making new friends ^S in a large school can be difficult.
6. The highlight of the season was ^{PRO} watching our team win the regional tournament.
7. She enjoys ^{DO} hiking in the mountains.
8. Cindy makes money by ^{OP} walking dogs.
9. My grandmother and I enjoy ^{DO} digging for clams.
10. He improved his appearance by ^{OP} losing weight.