

Verbals—Gerund Phrases*Reteaching*

A **gerund** is a verbal that ends in *-ing* and acts as a noun.

Walking puts less stress on your legs than running.

A **gerund phrase** consists of a gerund plus its modifiers and complements.

Roger Bannister won fame by running the mile in less than four minutes.

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

As subject	<u>Walking</u> is my favorite exercise.
As predicate nominative	My favorite exercise is <u>walking</u> .
As direct object	I enjoy <u>walking a mile a day</u> .
As object of a preposition	I control my weight by <u>walking a mile each day</u> .
As indirect object	You should give <u>walking</u> a try.

A. Identifying Gerunds and Gerund Phrases

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

1. A catamaran is a sailboat made by joining two separate hulls together.
2. Leaving a little space between the two hulls is important.
3. Natives of the South Seas invented the "cat" by tying two logs together.
4. Using paddles and sometimes sails made the "cats" go very fast.
5. People who ride on a "cat" enjoy skimming over the water and attracting the attention of curious onlookers.
6. Jim's goal for the summer is building a catamaran of his own.

B. Identifying Gerunds and Gerund Phrases

Underline each gerund or gerund phrase. On the blank, write how it is used: **S** for subject, **PN** for predicate nominative, **DO** for direct object, or **OP** for object of a preposition.

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| 1. <u>Cheering the team</u> gave me a sore throat. | <u>S</u> |
| 2. Joanna's mother enjoys <u>preserving fruits and vegetables</u> . | <u>DO</u> |
| 3. We stopped him from <u>telling the secret</u> . | <u>OP</u> |
| 4. Alicia's worst fashion habit is <u>wearing her sweater inside out</u> . | <u>PN</u> |
| 5. <u>Playing chess</u> takes a great deal of concentration. | <u>S</u> |
| 6. One of the more dangerous sports is <u>skiing down almost-vertical slopes</u> . | <u>PN</u> |
| 7. Mr. Karl doesn't approve of <u>coming late</u> . | <u>OP</u> |
| 8. Thank you for <u>listening to my explanation</u> . | <u>OP</u> |
| 9. To get rid of the skunk odor, try <u>washing the dog with tomato juice</u> . | <u>DO</u> |
| 10. <u>Hearing the wind moan</u> scared the children. | <u>S</u> |

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More Practice

A. Identifying Gerunds and Gerund Phrases

Underline each gerund or gerund phrase. In the blank, write how it is used: **S** for subject, **PN** for predicate nominative, **DO** for direct object, or **OP** for object of a preposition.

1. Eating tomatoes hardly seems a daring act today, but tomatoes were once thought to be poisonous. S
2. Thomas Jefferson could count growing the first tomato in the United States among his accomplishments. DO
3. Many people, by believing the tomato poisonous, slowed its acceptance. OP
4. People eventually started appreciating the tomato's value. DO
5. Although the tomato is no longer considered harmful, some doubt still exists about classifying it as a fruit or a vegetable. OP
6. Labeling it as a fruit seemed logical to botanists. S
7. Yet using a fruit in soups and sauces seemed strange to nonscientists. S
8. The controversy continued, and eventually the Supreme Court was faced with deciding the issue. OP
9. The Court's problem was satisfying both the scientific and the nonscientific worlds. PN
10. In 1893 the Court solved the problem by classifying the tomato as a vegetable for purposes of trade only. OP

B. Using Gerunds and Gerund Phrases

Rewrite each sentence. Change the boldfaced word or words to a gerund or gerund phrase, and underline the gerund or gerund phrase. You may need to alter some other words in the sentence.

1. **To sail** has always appealed to me.
sailing
2. My long-term project has been **to find a patient teacher**.
finding
3. My misfortune is **to be a total klutz**.
being
4. **To stay out of the way of the sail** is impossible for me.
staying
5. All I can aim for is **to be allowed on a sailboat as a guest**.
being

CHAPTER 3