



WHAT IS A GERUND?

- A gerund is the –ing form of a verb. This –ing verb functions as a noun. Therefore, a gerund can do whatever a noun does.

Jogging helps you lose weight.

Jogging, formed from the verb “jog,” is the subject of the sentence and functions as a noun.

WHAT IS A GERUND PHRASE?

- A gerund phrase is a phrase that begins with a gerund and includes objects or modifiers. It functions as a noun.

Jogging for thirty minutes every day helps you lose weight.

Here, jogging for thirty minutes is the gerund phrase and functions as the subject of the sentence.

GERUND USAGE

1. Subject: the gerund in this example acts as the subject.

Writing is a necessary part of college.

2. Direct object: a gerund phrase acts as the direct object.

I like **partying with my friends** on the weekends.

3. Subject compliment: a gerund acts as a compliment to the subject.

That swim in the ocean was **exhausting**.

4. Object of a preposition: a gerund acts as an object of a preposition.

I am interested **in going** to the museum.

GERUNDS AND OTHER VERBALS

Be careful not to confuse gerunds with participles.

Examples

Unlike a gerund, which always functions as a noun, a participle is the form of a verb when it functions as an adjective.

Participle: While **driving**, Cathy got an eyelash in her eye and crashed.
Here “driving” modifies Cathy and acts as an adjective.

Gerund: **Driving** is not easy when it rains.
Here “driving” is the subject, thus making it a gerund.

Participle: **Swimming** through the ocean, the whale searched for a mate.
Here “swimming” modifies the whale, making it an adjective.

Gerund: The whale enjoyed **swimming through the waves**.
Here “swimming” is the direct object.