

A Little Bit of Gerunds

Gerunds are words that imply action and end in -ing; they function as a noun and can occupy different positions in a sentence.

Gerunds can serve as the subject.

Subjects are the agents of an action.

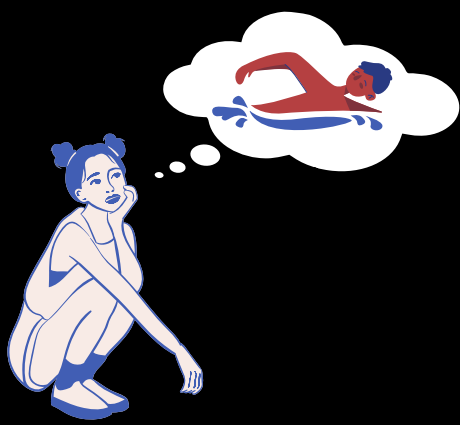
1. Exercising makes us happy.
2. Working should not be a struggle.
3. Writing takes practice.



Gerunds can be the subject complement.

Subject complements give us information about the subject.

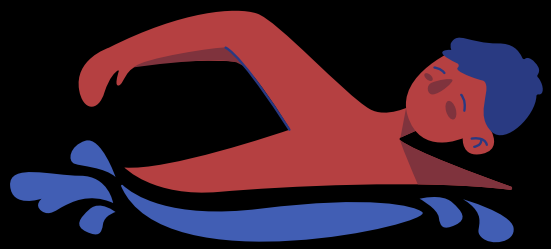
Her favorite *hobby* **is** swimming.



Notice how the gerund in this example is identifying the noun "hobby".

The subject complement should **not** be confused with the present continuous verb tense.

She **is** swimming.



In these cases, the words that end in -ing are considered part of the compound verb (**to be + verb -ing**).

Gerunds can be Direct (D.O.) or Indirect Objects (I.O)

Objects are usually noun phrases that follow the verb clause.

1. I never gave reading (I.O) enough of a chance (D.O).
2. We love reading (D.O).
3. Argus loves playing (D.O.) fetch.



Gerunds as Objects of Prepositions

Gerunds can be part of a prepositional phrase: **prep.** + gerund.



1. Her enthusiasm **for** (**prep.**) studying is uncanny.
2. Jake is interested **in** (**prep.**) painting.
3. He told the joke **without** (**prep.**) laughing.