



English

Fourth stage

L4

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The Gerund and the Present Participle

Gerund

A gerund is a word that is created with a **verb** but functions as a noun, always ending in -ing. Being used as a noun, a gerund can function as a subject, a subject complement, a direct object, an indirect object, or an object of a preposition. It's important to note that though gerunds may look a lot like present participles, they are not the same thing. Gerunds are specifically placed in the noun position of a sentence whereas present participles are placed with the verb phrase, usually as modifiers.

Gerund Examples

Here is an example of a gerund in the subject position:

Brushing your hair **prevents** it from dirty.

Apologizing to me **is** enough this time.

Reading **is** my own hoppy.

In the above sentence, the word brushing is the gerund functioning as the subject of the sentence. If a gerund were to be the complement of a subject in a sentence, it would look like this:

My sister avoids cooking.

I enjoy shopping.

The team practiced kicking in the goal.

Cooking is functioning as a complement to the subject, my sister.

Gerunds can also function as the object of a sentence. Here's an example where the gerund is the object of a preposition:

There is no use in standing in line for three hours.

He always talks about running.

We got in trouble for chatting.

In this sentence, standing, running and chatting follow the preposition in, about and for making them the objects of the prepositions.

Present Participle

What is the Present Participle?

The present participle, also known as the gerund, is one of the forms of every English verb. To create it, we use the base form of the verb and add -ing. For example,

Eat – Eating

Sleep – Sleeping

Wait – Waiting

Eating, sleeping and waiting are all present participles.

Spelling rules

With verbs that end in -e, we remove the -e and add -ing. For example,

Drive – driving, write-writing, make-making

With most short one-syllable verbs, like stop, put, sit, we double the final consonant. For example,

Stopping, putting, sitting.

When do we use the Present Participle?

The present participle is used in the following situations:

1. **to make continuous tenses**
2. **as an adjective**
3. **after certain verbs**

Continuous tenses

We use continuous tenses to describe ongoing actions. That can mean in the present, in the past, and in the future. For example:

1. You are reading this article.
2. I was reading this article last night.
3. She had been waiting for an hour.
4. I will be working in my office.

-Ing Adjectives

Many English verbs can become adjectives by using the present participle. For example,

Interesting (from the verb 'to interest')

Tiring (from the verb 'to tire')

Boring (from the verb 'to bore')

Amazing (from the verb 'to amaze')

We can use these adjectives to describe nouns, which could be people, things or situations. For example,

You must see this film. It's really interesting.

What an amazing view. It's beautiful!

I had a boring weekend. I didn't do anything.

Her job is very tiring. She has to stay on her feet all day.

The Present Participle after 'Go'

We use the present participle after some verbs of movement, most commonly 'to go'. For example,

To go skiing, to go jogging, to go sailing, to go swimming....etc.

The Present Participle after certain verbs

We also use the present participle after the sense verbs (See, Look, Hear, Sound, Feel, Taste, Watch, Smell etc)

For example,

We **saw** the police catching a criminal.

They **heard** someone calling for help.

I **watched** the band marching past.

Exercise 1

Point out the present participles and gerunds in the following sentences.

1. He has ruined his lungs by smoking.
2. Asking questions is easier than answering them.
3. We saw a clown standing on his head.
4. He hates spending money.
5. We are fighting a losing battle.
6. It is freezing cold.
7. We are confident of winning the election.
8. Can you teach me painting?

The Answer

1. Smoking – Gerund (object of the preposition by)
2. Asking – Gerund (subject of the verb is)
3. Standing – participle (used like an adjective qualifying the noun clown)
4. Spending – gerund (object of the verb hates)
5. Fighting – participle (used to form the present continuous verb)
6. Freezing – participle (used like an adverb qualifying the adjective cold)
7. Winning – gerund (object of the preposition of)
8. Painting – gerund (object of the verb teach)

Exercise 2

Give the correct gerund form of these verbs.

1. She likes (paint).
2. I can't bear (listen) to loud music.
3. He enjoys (play) tennis.
4. Leila dreams of (set) up her own business.
5. He is interested in (emigrate) to Canada.
6. Are you good at (play) tennis.
7. She is crazy about (read) romantic poems.
8. I can't help (laugh) when I watch Mr Bean.
9. I can't imagine (be) anywhere else but here.

Exercise 3

Correct the verbs between brackets.

1. You should give up (smoke).
2. What about.....to the zoo tomorrow? (go)
3. It's no usea taxi. We'll be late anyway. (take)
4. She always wastes her time..... bad books. (read)
5. We had no problemfrom the airport to the train station. (drive)
6. video games all the time is very boring. (play)
7. She is fond ofcomics. (read)
8. Alvaro admitted during the English test. (cheat)
9. Brenda really hates (study).
- 10..... is good for your health. (swim)