

Gerunds in Phrases • Practice 1

Gerunds A gerund is a form of verb that acts as a noun. Gerunds can be used as subjects, direct objects, predicate nouns, and objects of prepositions.

GERUNDS

Swimming is my favorite activity. (*Swimming* is the subject.)
I always enjoy *swimming*. (*Swimming* is the direct object.)

Gerund Phrases A gerund phrase is a gerund with modifiers or a complement, all acting together as a noun.

GERUND PHRASES

Swimming every day is a regular activity. (Gerund phrase used as subject.)
I enjoy *swimming fast*. (Gerund phrase used as direct object.)

Exercise 1

Recognizing Gerunds and Gerund Phrases. Underline the gerund or gerund phrase in each sentence. In the space provided tell how it is used.

EXAMPLE: The counselor cautioned us against about smoking. obj. of prep.

- Working hard is often its own reward. sub
- My mother always enjoys driving. direct obj
- I know people who are obsessed with eating all the time. obj of prep
- Groping in the dark is not my idea of fun. sub
- It seems that his favorite activity is sleeping. predicate noun
- I don't believe in choosing sides. op
- Practicing swimming is all Willie does. sub.
- My father's job is managing the New York office. pred. noun
- Young people used to dream about making movies. op.
- Yes, I began cleaning my room this morning. direct obj.

Exercise 2

Using Gerunds and Gerund Phrases in Sentences. Write original sentences that use the gerunds or gerund phrases below.

EXAMPLE: growing tall

Growing tall is his major goal.

- driving to school Driving to school is fun.
- making excuses I hate making excuses
- laughing Laughing is good for the spirit.
- baking chocolate chip cookies Mom tried baking chocolate chip cookies.
- cheating He was punished for cheating.