

**21.1**

**Gerunds and Gerund Phrases (Gerunds; Verb, Participle, or Gerund?) • Practice 1**

**Gerunds** A gerund is a form of a verb that acts as a noun.

GERUNDS
<i>Subject:</i> Running has become very popular. <i>Direct Object:</i> Unfortunately, Susan adored <i>singing</i> . <i>Indirect Object:</i> Uncle Lew gave <i>skiing</i> a single try. <i>Predicate Nominative:</i> Her favorite activity was <i>riding</i> . <i>Object of a Preposition:</i> Steve was not very fond of <i>raking</i> . <i>Appositive:</i> Her hobby, <i>shopping</i> , tires me out.

**Verb, Participle, or Gerund?** Words ending in *-ing* that act as nouns are gerunds. They do not have helping verbs, nor do they act as adjectives.

Verb	Participle	Gerund
Who is <i>cooking</i> tonight?	<i>Cooking</i> smells filled the house.	Paul enjoys <i>cooking</i> <span style="float: right;">DO</span>

**Exercise 1 Recognizing Gerunds.** Underline the gerund in each sentence. Then write whether each one is used as a *subject*, *direct object*, *indirect object*, *predicate nominative*, *object of a preposition*, or *appositive* on each line to the right.

**EXAMPLE:** Bill improved by practicing. object of a preposition

1. Winning is less important than sportsmanship. SUBST.
2. Since childhood, Tony has shown a love of learning. OP
3. The doctor recommended exercise instead of dieting. OP
4. Alice's knitting is quite remarkable. SUBST.
5. Jody won several medals for swimming. OP
6. Jogging is a popular form of exercise. SUBST.
7. During her free time, Michelle enjoys reading. D.O.
8. Chris turned his hobby, painting, into a profession. APP.
9. The sound of drilling disturbed our sleep. OP
10. Dad's favorite sport is fishing. PN.

**Exercise 2 Distinguishing Between Verbs, Participles and Gerunds.** Write V, P, or G on each line to the right to indicate whether the underlined word in each sentence is a verb, a participle, or a gerund.

**EXAMPLE:** A rolling stone gathers no moss. P

1. Who is pitching today? \_\_\_\_\_
2. He has a strong pitching arm. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Pitching is our weakness. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Her great love is acting. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who is acting in the play? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Portia was her first acting role. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The moving van was late. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Moving is always troublesome. \_\_\_\_\_
9. The Halls are moving away. \_\_\_\_\_
10. I am afraid of flying. \_\_\_\_\_

# 21.1 Gerunds and Gerund Phrases (Gerunds; Verb, Participle, or Gerund?) • Practice 2

**Exercise 1** Identifying Gerunds. Underline the gerund or gerunds in each sentence. Label each one as a *subject*, *direct object*, *indirect object*, *predicate nominative*, *object of a preposition*, or *appositive*.

**EXAMPLE:** Swimming is her favorite activity. subject

1. She expanded her vocabulary by reading. OP
2. At the age of five, Winston began acting. DO
3. Dribbling requires coordination and dexterity. SUB
4. On summer nights, the family enjoys picnicking. DO
5. One of Lenore's hobbies is sewing. PN
6. The parakeet's main pastime, chirping, prevents loneliness. APP
7. Loving is trusting. PN
8. Stephanie loved excitement and dancing. DO
9. Weeding has improved the appearance of the yard. SUB
10. The team excelled (in batting and running). OP
11. Swimming is an excellent way to stay in shape. SUB
12. Unfortunately, studying is Raymond's least favorite activity. SUB
13. Have you ever done any mountain climbing? DO
14. The judges gave Mel's skating a score of nine. IO
15. You'll never get anywhere by simply dreaming. OP

**Exercise 2** Distinguishing Between Verbs, Participles, and Gerunds. Identify each underlined word as a *verb*, *participle*, or *gerund*.

**EXAMPLE:** The girls are swimming in the lake. verb

1. The losing team put up a good fight. \_\_\_\_\_
2. No one enjoys losing. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The home team was losing at the half. \_\_\_\_\_
4. The contractors are painting the exterior today. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Painting is more than a hobby to Chuck. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Have you seen my painting clothes? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Our meeting at the station was a surprise. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Hayes was a member of the delegation meeting the plane. \_\_\_\_\_
9. You will be meeting many new people at camp. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Why are you reading that book? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Reading is Ralph's favorite activity. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Once a month, the reading group meets for a book discussion. \_\_\_\_\_
13. The laughing children encouraged the clown to continue. \_\_\_\_\_
14. The children were laughing at the clown's antics. \_\_\_\_\_
15. The clown enjoys laughing. \_\_\_\_\_