

Gerunds and Gerund Phrases



A **gerund** is a type of **noun** that is made from a verb in its -ing form. Gerunds and gerund phrases (gerunds + their associated modifiers) function like any other noun or noun phrase.

They are used as **subjects**.

<p>Sailing is his favorite activity. The gerund <i>sailing</i> is the subject of the verb <i>is</i>.</p>	<p>Sailing at night can be dangerous. The gerund phrase <i>sailing at night</i> is the subject of the verb phrase <i>can be</i>.</p>
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They are used as **objects of verbs**.

<p>Jen does not enjoy cooking. The gerund <i>cooking</i> is the object of the verb phrase <i>does not enjoy</i>.</p>	<p>She prefers eating at restaurants. The gerund phrase <i>eating at restaurants</i> is the object of the verb <i>prefers</i>.</p>
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They are used as **objects of prepositions**.

<p>He expresses himself well through writing. The gerund <i>writing</i> is the object of the preposition <i>through</i>.</p>	<p>This story is about climbing a mountain. The gerund phrase <i>climbing a mountain</i> is the object of the preposition <i>about</i>.</p>
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*Keep in mind that not all -ing words are gerunds! Gerunds function as nouns. In the sentence below, glistening is a participial adjective, not a gerund.

The sun sets over the glistening water.

Glistening is a participial adjective modifying the noun *water*.

Underline the **gerund** or **gerund phrase** in each sentence. Then, write its function in the blank using the following abbreviations.

S = Subject

OV = Object of Verb

OP = Object of Preposition

- Surfing is one of the most popular adventure sports in coastal communities around the world. S
- Skilled surfers do not mind floating for hours. They must practice patience to catch the perfect wave. OV
- Brave but not foolhardy, champion surfers understand the importance of respecting the sea's power. OP
- It takes a strong will to rebound from a devastating natural disaster. Rebuilding is the hardest part. S
- First responders are passionate about going where they're needed most, and they play an important role in life-saving efforts. OP
- These heroes douse smoldering flames and rescue injured people and animals. To support first responders' courageous efforts, state and local governments must provide funding. OV
- Mel is an up-and-coming sculptor who signs her work by inscribing her distinctly fashioned initials. OP
- Sculpting intricate dragon figures is her specialty. Her daring pieces are popular among avid fans of fantasy books and films. S
- She weaves together intriguing elements of both fantasy and reality in her sculptures. She relishes connecting nature and imagination through her art. OV