

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**.

Sailing is his favorite activity.

The gerund *sailing* is the subject of the verb *is*.

Sailing at night can be dangerous.

The gerund phrase *sailing at night* is the subject of the verb phrase *can be*.

They are used as **objects of verbs**.

Jen does not enjoy cooking.

The gerund *cooking* is the object of the verb phrase *does not enjoy*.

She prefers eating at restaurants.

The gerund phrase *eating at restaurants* is the object of the verb *prefers*.

They are used as **objects of prepositions**.

He expresses himself well through writing.

The gerund *writing* is the object of the preposition *through*.

This story is about climbing a mountain.

The gerund phrase *climbing a mountain* is the object of the preposition *about*.

*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

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