

6th - Non Finite Verbs - Gerunds



Gerunds

1. Look at these sentences. Notice how the -ing words are used in these sentences.

- **Wrestling** is popular in India. (subject of the sentence)
- I enjoy **reading** English poetry. (object of the sentence)
- He is fond of **drinking** cold coffee. (object of the preposition)
- What I quite detest is **lying**. (complement of the verb)

When the -ing form of the verb is used as a noun in a sentence, we call it the gerund. In these sentences, the -ing words function like nouns. However, all these words are derived from verbs.

The -ing word can be used in different ways. For example,

- Collecting stamps is her hobby. (subject)
- I don't like writing. (object)
- My favourite hobby is reading. (complement of the sentence)

Gerunds or Infinitives?

As both gerunds and infinitives have the force of a noun and a verb, they have the same uses. Thus, in many sentences either of them may be used. For example,

- He likes **singing**. (gerund)
He likes to sing. (infinitive)
- She began **laughing**. (gerund)
She began to laugh. (infinitive)

However, the only non-finite form of the verb that can follow a preposition is a gerund. For example,

- They were punished for to lie. (infinitive, incorrect)
- They were punished for lying. (gerund, correct)
- We cannot live without to drink water. (Infinitive, incorrect)
- We cannot live without drinking water. (gerund, correct).....

The table below lists examples of sentences where we can only use gerunds.

Verbs followed by prepositions	
They always <u>disapproved</u>	<u>Of</u> boxing
We have succeeded	<u>In</u> winning the game
Adjectives with preposition followed by gerunds	
He is <u>fond of</u>	<u>Drinking</u> tea
We were all <u>tired of</u>	<u>Listening</u> to his silly jokes



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A. identify the participles and gerunds in these sentences

1 I prefer walking

2. Being satisfied, we agreed to buy the car.

3. Hearing the sound, the bird flew away.

B. Correct the errors, if any, in these sentences.

1 Forgiving is divine

2 He has some debts to clear

3 My shoes need be mended

4 I shall be glad helping you -

C. Complete the passage with the correct non-finite forms of the verbs given in the brackets.

As a child, I did not like _____ (sleep) during the summer afternoons. I would wander in the garden _____ (look) for _____ (nest) birds. It was fun _____ (look) at the fledglings. _____ (take) one home was of course out of the question. I knew that it was not the correct thing _____ (do).

