

8th - 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)

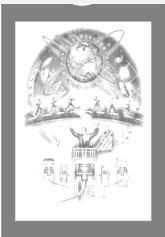
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The table below lists examples of sentences where we can only use gerunds.

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

A. Identify the participles and gerunds in these sentences

1 The visitors were thrilled to see the glistening trout dancing in the rivulet meandering down the hills.



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2. We have succeeded in convincing the authorities about the need to protect the tribes living in remote villages.

3. Noticing the clouds gathering in the distant sky, we decided to leave in the vehicle parked near the gate.

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

1. He is averse to invest money in this business.

2. This book is not only interesting read but also easy understanding.

3. To read being his favourite hobby, he read whenever he had some spare time.

4. Who is responsible for breaking this mirror? I want you answering truthfully.

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). Sometimes when my father spotted me near a nest, I would be scolded for _____ (disturb) the birds. But my objective was not _____ (frighten) the little creatures, but _____ (observe) them closely. Once I remember _____ (catch) a weaver-bird. It did not seem _____ (mind) my _____ (interfere) nature. In fact, it allowed me _____ (thrust) my hand into its nest and _____ (touch) the sleeping fledgling. Our gardener was a kind man. _____ (garden) was his passion. He once allowed me (climb) a tree and look into a tree-hole. Neither he nor I had noticed the snake _____ (lurk) on a branch. But my brother did. _____ (scream), he alerted us. _____ (watch) birds is no doubt an interesting hobby!

