



The Gerund

A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE

Patterns

**Gerund
vs.
infinitive**

Practice

The end

Gerund as a Subject of a Sentence



- Fishing is his hobby.
- Seeing is believing.
- Beating a child will do more harm than good.
- Exercising in hot weather may be harmful.

Verbs of „Likes and Dislikes” + Gerund



- like, love, be fond of, be interested in, be into, be crazy about
- mind
- dislike, hate, be fed up with, be bored with, be tired of
- I have always **loved** **skiing**.
- Jackson **is fond of** **playing** soccer.
- Are you **crazy about** **fishing**?
- I don't **mind** **staying** up late.
- We are **fed up with** **doing** so much homework.
- Are you **bored with** **watching** this film?

EXAMPLES

Suggestions with Gerund



- What about taking a walk after the workout?
- How about travelling to France next summer?
- She suggested giving a party at her place when the school year finished.
- Do you fancy going out tonight?

Go + Gerund



- Pete **goes swimming** every afternoon.
- I'd like to **go skiing** in the winter holiday.
- Our family is into sports: dad **goes cycling**, mum **goes running** and I **go hiking** at the weekends.
- My friend never **goes shopping** because he hates queuing at the checkout.

This pattern usually refers to sports activities and physical recreation.



DO the + Gerund



- Mike wanted to **do the washing** and the **cleaning**.
- Do you like **doing the gardening**?
- I have never **done the ironing**.
- Let me **do the washing up**.



This pattern usually refers to different jobs that you do around the house.

SPEND/WASTE + Gerund



- He never **spends** any money **gambling**.
- Try not to **waste** your money **buying** too many unnecessary gadgets.
- We often **spend** hours **playing** board games.
- She **wasted** a lot of time **hanging** out in pubs.

NEED + Gerund



- My garden **needs** watering.
- You should see your hairdresser because you hair **needs** cutting.
- These windows **need** cleaning.
- We must spend a lot of money on this house: the roof **needs** repairing, the fence **needs** fixing and the walls **need** painting.



This pattern conveys passive meaning and refers to activities that must be done.

Verb + Gerund



- Can't help, can't stand
 - Feel like
 - Get/be used to
 - Look forward to
 - Keep
 - Give up
 - Take to
 - Deny
 - Risk
 - Go on, continue
 - Finish
- We **can't help** **laughing** at his jokes.
 - I don't **feel like** **learning**.
 - He **is used to** **getting** up early.
 - I **look forward to** **hearing** from you.
 - **Keep** **walking**
 - He **gave up** **smoking** but took to **gambling**.
 - She **denied** **stealing** the ring.
You **risk** **dying** if you **go on** **taking** drugs.

EXAMPLES

It's no good/use + Gerund



- It is **no use** **crying** over spilt milk.
- It's **no good** **talking** about it for so long.
- It is **not much use** **buying** a car if you can't drive.
- Is it **any good** **running** away?



Next

Some verbs can be followed either by the GERUND or the INFINITIVE (1)

Different order of actions

2

1

V+ing

**Remember
Forget
Regret**



I remembered locking the door. = First I locked the door, then I remembered it.

I remembered to lock the door.
= I remembered that I had to lock the door so I did so.

1

2

To V,



Next

Some verbs can be followed either by the GERUND or the INFINITIVE (2)

Different meaning

They stopped talking when the teacher entered. = They were talking but finished it when the teacher entered.

stop



V+ing

They stopped to talk. = They took a break so that they could talk.

To V,



Next

Some verbs can be followed either by the GERUND or the INFINITIVE (3)

Different aspect

They saw him climbing the tree
= They saw a part of the action.

See
Hear
watch



V+ing

V₁

They saw him climb the tree. =
They saw the whole action.



Next

Some verbs can be followed either by the GERUND or the INFINITIVE (4)

Different meaning

She tried making it up with her friend. = She made an experiment to see what would happen.

try



V+ing

To V₁

She tried to learn Japanese. = She made an effort to do so.

Some verbs can be followed either by the GERUND or the INFINITIVE (5)

Different order of actions

2

1

sorry



For V+ing

Sorry for being late. = I have been late and now I apologize.

Sorry to interrupt. = I am going to interrupt and I apologize for this.

1

2

To V,



Finish the following sentences using the gerund of the given verbs.

- His friend suggested (play) tennis in the park.
- She can't stand (do) the (wash up).
- He got used to (commute) easily.
- It is no use (cheat) in a test.
- He doesn't mind (travel) at night.

His friend suggested playing tennis in the park.

She can't stand doing the washing up.

He got used to commuting easily.

It is no use cheating in a test.

He doesn't mind travelling at night.



Make sentences using the given words and the gerund.

- Do/shop/ her hobby
- We/ look forward/ meet/ you
- I /not/feel like/ go out/ tonight
- What about/cycle?
- You/ be used to/ work hard?
- Sorry/ keep/you/ wait

Doing the shopping is her hobby.

We look forward to meeting you.

I don't feel like going out tonight.

What about cycling?

Are you used to working hard?

Sorry for keeping you waiting.



Rewrite the following sentences using the gerund and the verbs in brackets.

- Don't jump off the fence. It isn't a good idea. (no good)
- They just laughed and laughed. (keep)
- Do you want to watch a film? (fancy)
- We give parties at the weekends because we like them. (enjoy)

It is no good jumping off the fence.

They kept laughing.

Do you fancy watching a film?

We enjoy giving parties at the weekends.



Rewrite the following sentences using the gerund and the verbs in brackets.

- They climbed a mountain on their holiday. (go)
- Let's have some beer. (suggest)
- The windows should be cleaned. (need)
- He always plays PC games. (waste)
- Just read. Do not stop. (go on)

They went climbing on their holiday.

He suggested having some beer.

The windows need cleaning.

He wastes a lot of time playing PC games.

Go on reading.



Next

Finish the sentences using the gerund or the infinitive

- The criminal denied **killing** (kill) the old lady.
- I tried **carrying** (carry) a bucket of water on the top of my head.
- A witness saw him **breaking** (break) a window of the house.
- I didn't remember **turning** (turn) off the cooker so I went back to check it.
- Don' forget **to cancel** (cancel) your mail when you go on holiday.
- We could not help **going** (go) back to the park when we were there.



Finish the sentences using the gerund or the infinitive

- Stop talking (talk) and start reading (read) the text.
- Mum watched her son step (step) off the pavement and cross (cross) the street.
- I heard you singing (sing) in the shower.
- They love staring (stare) at the stars.
- He will regret breaking (break) up with his girlfriend.

**How about having
(have) a break?**



GOOD BYE!