

Gerunds

Intermediate English, Week 10, Winter 2021

What is a gerund?

- A *gerund* is made with a verb + -ing
- Gerunds look like verbs, but we use them like nouns
 - I like **watching** romantic movies.
 - **Listening** to music helps me relax.
- They can be a subject or an object in a sentence
- Remember, you still need another verb!

Spelling with -ing

- With most verbs, just add **-ing** to the end
 - Learn → learn**ing**; eat → eat**ing**
- For verbs ending with **-e**, delete the **-e**, then add **-ing**
 - Drive**e** → driv**ing**; live**e** → liv**ing**
- If it ends with **-ie**, change to **-y**, then add **-ing**
 - Die → dy**ing**; lie → ly**ing**
- When the last three letters are consonant-vowel-consonant, double the final letter, then add **-ing**
 - run → run**ning**; hit → hit**ting**
- If a verb ends with **-y**, don't change it! Just add **-ing**
 - Play → play**ing**; study → stud**ying**

Gerunds as nouns

- Remember, a gerund isn't really a verb. We use it like a noun
- We can use a gerund as the subject or object of a sentence
 - **Swimming** is my favorite sport.
 - **Eating fish** makes me sick.
 - I like **studying** English.
 - My hobbies are **cooking** and **reading**.
- Don't forget, we need to have a verb, not only a gerund!
 - **Running** is good exercise. ~~NOT Running good exercise.~~
 - I **go** to class every day. ~~NOT I going to class every day.~~

Gerunds with verbs

- We can use gerunds together with some verbs. Just change the main verb like usual, then put the gerund after it
- Be careful! We can't use gerunds with all verbs, just certain ones
- Some common verbs that use gerunds:
 - *Miss* – She misses **visiting** her grandparents every weekend.
 - *Finish* – He finished **washing** the car in the evening.
 - *Avoid* – I avoid **watching** TV after 9:00 PM.
 - *Stop* – My schedule changed, so I stopped **going** to the gym.

Let's practice! Fix the mistakes

1. My new hobbies are ~~draw and paint~~ ^{drawing and painting}.
2. Smoking ^{is} bad for your health.
3. I think that ~~driveing~~ ^{driving} a car isn't difficult.
4. ^{Going} ~~Go~~ shopping with my sister is a lot of fun.
5. I'm really busy, so I will stop ~~come~~ ^{coming} to class.

Let's practice! Choose the right verb

(Miss – Avoid – Finish – Stop – Like)

1. The construction workers didn't finish building the new hotel. It will probably open next year.
2. If you want to lose weight, you should exercise, eat a lot of vegetables, and avoid eating sugary foods.
3. When I was a child, my family used to go to the beach every summer. I miss swimming in the ocean and catching fresh fish.
4. Do you like playing baseball? I don't mind it, but I prefer basketball and soccer.
5. Stop talking to me! I have a lot of work I need to finish this afternoon.