PRACTICE WITH GERUNDS

This practice sheet supports study of the novel *Jurassic Park* and is aligned with Indiana Standard 9.6.1.

A **gerund** is a verb form that ends in *-ing* and acts as a noun. Don't confuse it with a verb phrase in progressive tense or with a present participle, which also ends in *-ing* but acts as an adjective.

Examples:

Gerund: Arguing with John Hammond was never a good idea. (Arguing is the subject of the sentence -- it's a noun.)

Verb phrase: Ian Malcolm was arguing with John Hammond because he had a different opinion. (Was arguing is a verb.)

Participle: Ian Malcolm, <u>arguing</u> with <u>John Hammond</u>, said the theme park would never be safe. (*Arguing* is an adjective modifying *Ian Malcolm*.)

Directions: Underline the gerund. Tell its role in the sentence (subject, direct object, indirect object, object of a preposition, predicate nominative or complement, appositive).

- 1. Feeding the dinosaurs was a huge job.
- 2. Hunting wild animals was Muldoon's specialty.
- 3. Dennis Nedry's job was computer programming.
- 4. One velociraptor trait was pack hunting.
- 5. Packs of raptors were capable of bringing down animals that weighed a thousand pounds.
- 6. John Hammond was using Jurassic Park for two purposes: entertaining visitors and making money.
- 7. Producing and caring for cloned reptiles at the park was keeping Dr. Wu busy.
- 8. Nedry wasn't telling anyone about stealing embryos.
- 9. Watching the animals with the motion detectors and video monitors was leading the team into a false sense of security.
- 10. The park was using computers for counting the animals.
- 11. Smiling happily, Lex often asked people about playing pickle.
- 12. Tim remembered reading Dr. Grant's exciting book about dinosaurs.
- 13. Malcolm used forecasting the weather as an interesting example of chaos theory.
- 14. Gennaro's compelling goal of making money sometimes affected his judgement.
- 15. Businessmen like Hammond, working unethically, are demonstrating the potential dangers of technological advances like cloning in our modern world.

Writing: Write a paragraph about cloning or another scientific/technological development. Use at least five gerunds and underline them.

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