# Gerunds

*NoTimer*

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 _____

_____ DEFINITION

A gerund is a verb form that functions as a noun. A gerund is created by adding the suffix "-ing" to the base form of a verb.
Like all nouns, gerunds can be used as subjects, objects of verbs, objects of prepositions, or complements.

CHAPTER 2

PROPERTIES

Unlike a normal noun, a gerund maintains some verb-like properties.
**For example:**

- drinking a flagon (The gerund drinking has a direct object, a flagon.)

- driving erratically (The gerund driving is modified with an adverb, erratically.)

- regularly visiting the hospital (The gerund visiting is modified with an adverb, regularly, and has a direct object, the hospital. )

**Using Gerunds**

1  As the Subject of a Verb

**Running is a good way to explore.**
gerund    verb

2  As the Object of a Verb

**He likes running.**
verb      gerund

3  As the Object of a Preposition

**I am thinking of running.**
preposition   gerund

4  As a Subject Complement

**My new hobby is running.**
gerund
renames the subject

# CHAPTER 3

## DIFFERENCES IN USAGE BETWEEN GERUNDS AND INFINITIVES

## 3.1  Gerunds

Gerunds are best for use in sentences about actions that are real or complete, or that have been completed.

• I stopped worrying about the future.
In this example, the worrying was real and it happened until I stopped.

• We really enjoy climbing mountains.
In this example, the climbing is real and it's something we like to do.

## 3.2  Infinitives

Infinitives are best for use in sentences about actions that are unreal or abstract, or that will occur in the future.

• I'd like you to think about something.
In this example, I'm asking you to think about something, but the thinking hasn't happened yet.

• Can we take a walk without you stopping to smoke?
In this example, we're talking about taking a walk and the smoking hasn't happened yet.