

Lesson 212

Parts of the Sentence - Verbals - Gerunds

A *gerund* is a **verbal** that always ends in *ing* and is used as a **noun**.

Example:

Eating is fun.

The *gerund* can be a **subject**, a **direct object**, a **predicate nominative**, an **appositive**, an **indirect object**, or an **object of a preposition**.

Examples:

Eating is fun. (subject)

I like **eating**. (direct object)

A fun time is **eating**. (predicate nominative)

A fun time, **eating**, takes much time. (appositive)

I give **eating** too much time. (indirect object)

I give much time to **eating**. (object of preposition)

Gerunds can have with them **direct objects**, **predicate nominatives**, **predicate adjectives**, or modifiers to form what is called a **gerund phrase**.

Example:

Eating solid foods is hard for babies.

S

Adj

DO

Eating solid foods is hard for babies. (the phrase is the subject)

S

Eating is the gerund used as the subject of the verb *is*. It has its own direct object **foods** with the adjective **solid**, which together make up the **gerund phrase**.

Instructions: Find the **gerund phrases** in the following sentences and tell if they are used as a **subject**, a **direct object**, a **predicate nominative**, an **appositive**, an **indirect object**, or an **object of a preposition**.

1. My hobby is working with irises.

2. I like pruning the fruit trees.

3. I had only one desire, leaving for home.

4. Writing a good novel is hard work.

5. With his snoring in his sleep, his wife couldn't sleep.