

Lesson 214

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.

Gerunds can be compound.

Example:

Jeff likes *hiking* and *camping*.

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 *gerunds* and *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. Fishing is my friend's favorite sport.

2. By adding more water, we can thin the paint.

3. The law forbids shouting fire in a theater.

4. Mr. Jones enjoys his work, collecting and repairing old stereos.

5. My neighbor's pastime is training guard dogs.