

Lesson 215

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. Turning off the freeway was our mistake.

2. The secretary's duties are taking minutes and typing letters.
3. You can start this machine by simply pushing this button.
4. His assignment, testing jet planes, is really exciting.
5. In some countries tourists can be arrested for taking pictures.