



Unit 35 – Gerunds (*Mom suggested going out to eat..*)



You've just met your new neighbor, Sally, and you are getting to know each other. What do you talk about with Sally?

Sally: It's **nice meeting** you! Do you **enjoy living** here?

You: Oh yes! So what do you **like doing** in your free time, Sally?

Sally: Well I **like chatting** over coffee. What about you?

You: Oh I **like meeting** friends too. Let's get together sometime!

Sally: Sure, I'd **love getting** together with you sometime!

-> Can you identify the gerunds above? This lesson focuses on gerunds and their usage in English.

A) Gerund – A gerund is a form of a verb using *-ing*. (e.g.: *baking, going, etc.*)

Gerunds (*and infinitives, as well*) combine i) the action meaning of a verb with ii) the function of a noun.

-> Gerunds act as both **subjects** and **objects** in sentences.

- Do you like **running**? -> gerund as an **object**
- **Running** is difficult! -> gerund as a **subject**

B) Gerund form – there are three types of gerund grammar patterns:

Position / Pattern:	Notes:	Example:
As a subject (S)	Gerunds as subjects are common. An infinitive subject is very formal.	Gardening is my favorite hobby. To garden is enjoyable. (<i>very formal</i>)
An object (O) of a verb	Both gerunds and infinitives can follow verbs. This depends on the verb used.	She enjoys + cycling to work. We considered + going to the party.
After a preposition (P)	Gerunds after prepositions are also common.	After taking a shower, I left for work. She called me before getting home.

C) Further Notes on Gerunds:

i) Verbs before gerunds can take on most verb tenses. For example:

- My family **went camping** last weekend. -> went = past tense
- They **will go fishing** next weekend. -> will go = future tense

ii) Gerunds (and infinitives) function as nouns (objects) and are often followed by an additional object:

- Jonathan enjoys **playing tennis**. -> 'playing' is the object of enjoy; 'tennis' is the object of playing

iii) Gerunds in negative form – there are two types of patterns:

- Harry **doesn't like doing** the dishes. (*not + main verb + gerund*)
- I **considered not driving** to the party. (*main verb + not + gerund*)

iv) Separating the verb and gerund with an object:

- I **remember (my grandfather) telling** stories. (*verb + object/person + gerund*)
- Can you **imagine (Chris) wearing** a suit?

D) Common verbs followed by a gerund:

admit	avoid	deny	enjoy	keep	miss	recommend
advise	complete	discuss	finish	mention	practice	suggest
appreciate	consider	dislike	imagine	mind	quit	



Unit 35 – Exercises:

35.1 – Change the verbs to the correct **gerund** in each sentence group.

1. We are so lucky to live in a house with a beautiful view. **Living** here is truly amazing.
2. My friend just loves to argue. I think _____ about sports is one of his favorite hobbies.
3. _____ over the speed limit is illegal. My friend drives this way and it really worries me.
4. Andrew runs every morning at 6am. He's a great athlete. _____ has helped him get in shape.
5. The government provides free check ups annually. _____ them helps keep people healthy.
6. _____ the drums comes naturally to Simon. He loves to play and has been since he was five!
7. Hannah loves to watch movies on Netflix. _____ movies is all she ever does these days!

35.2 – Complete the sentences by changing the verbs in brackets to **gerunds as subjects**.

fly / sit / sleep / swim / shop / talk / learn

1. **Flying** makes my mom nervous. She can't explain why but she really doesn't like airports.
2. _____ is definitely not allowed during the exam. We must complete the exam in silence.
3. _____ was something I didn't like much when I was young. Now I love going to the mall!
4. _____ about other cultures is one of the best parts of traveling.
5. _____ too close to screens is not good for our eyes. My mother always tells me to stop this.
6. _____ is something all people need. It's even more important when we're sick or stressed!
7. _____ is a great way to keep fit and feel great. And my favorite athlete is Michael Phelps!

35.3 – Complete the sentences by changing the verbs in brackets to **gerunds as objects**.

surf / paint / hike / read / dance / do / hunt

1. Thanks for inviting me but I can't go _____ tonight. I have sore knees and I'm just not good at it.
2. You would never see Dave _____. He's an animal-lover and has four dogs living with him!
3. Sorry I missed your call. I always practice _____ the piano after dinner.
4. Last week Jennifer tried _____ for the first time, and on her first try she stood up on her board!
5. Rick often goes _____ on a mountain nearby his house. He goes there every single morning.
6. Thomas is really talented! He loves _____ and has just been accepted to a major art college!
7. My best friend is constantly _____. She's either talking about novels or writing herself.

35.4 – Complete the sentences with the **gerund in negative form** using the verbs provided.

1. I **don't** enjoy **shopping** anymore because I am saving money for a new car. (shop)
2. Dad _____ like _____ and doing things outdoors. He'd rather stay inside! (garden)
3. I _____ imagine _____ to the party tonight. I have to wake up early tomorrow. (go)
4. Kelly _____ mind _____ her nieces. She's really good with kids! (babysit)
5. I'm sorry I _____ go _____ with you this weekend. I just have too much to do! (bike)
6. My best friend _____ stop _____. I've told him to quit several times! (smoke)

35.5 – Complete the sentences with the appropriate **preposition**: *on / for / on / about / at / in / to*

1. Mary's not sure if she can join us or not. It depends **on** her **finishing** her homework. (finish)
2. Are you interested _____ _____ golf with us this weekend? (play)
3. I apologize _____ _____ the lamp today. I promise to replace it. (break)
4. Mom is concerned _____ _____ in the snowstorm. The roads are very bad! (drive)
5. I have no objection _____ _____ you come home late. But please be careful! (let)
6. My sister insisted _____ _____ to see that movie even though mom said no. (go)
7. You're really getting good _____ _____ different kinds of dishes! (cook)