

Name _____

Gerunds and Gerund Phrases

A **gerund** is a "verb + *ing*" used as a noun.

Examples:

Swimming is good exercise. (subject)

The girls enjoy *swimming*. (direct object)

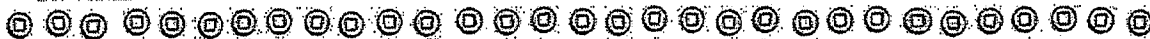
The best exercise is *swimming*. (predicate nominative)

She was scolded for *swimming*. (object of a preposition)

A **gerund phrase** consists of a gerund and related words.

Example:

Swimming in the lake is good exercise.



Underline the gerund or gerund phrase in each sentence.

1. Although he is famous today, Rudolph-Nureyev's birth on a train in Russia was a modest beginning.
2. Nureyev began his great career by dancing with amateur groups.
3. One of his skills was leaping like a gazelle.
4. Leaving Moscow changed Nureyev's career forever.
5. The dance world in London, Paris, and New York competed in praising his performances.
6. At recitals in which Nureyev danced, the orchestra was often drowned out by wild cheering.
7. Watching his impossibly high leaps was an unforgettable experience.
8. His dancing is known to everyone.
9. Driving in a crowded city was a new experience for Nicolás.
10. She could not stop humming that tune.



Write *gerund* or *gerund phrase* to identify the underlined words. Write *subject*, *direct object*, *predicate nominative*, or *object of a preposition* to identify how each gerund or gerund phrase is used in the sentence.

11. Dancing takes many forms. _____
12. Preparation for dancing in a troupe begins early in life. _____
13. Stretching all the muscles takes up much of a dancer's practice time. _____
14. The grandest movement of ballet is leaping. _____
15. In the 1920s modern dancers started moving in a completely new way. _____
16. Now dancers enjoy studying traditional forms. _____
17. The darkness of the night prevented us from finishing the job. _____
18. Rising with the sun did not appeal to him. _____

THE GERUND PHRASE

The **gerund phrase** consists of the gerund, which always ends in *-ing*, and its modifiers and complements. The gerund phrase is *always* used as a noun.

Driving a car takes concentration. (The gerund phrase is the subject of the verb *takes*).

Paul finished *painting the ceiling*. (The gerund phrase is the direct object of *finished*).

After *hiking for two hours*, we sat down to rest. (The gerund phrase is the object of the preposition *after*).

Identifying Gerund Phrases: Underline the gerund phrases in the sentences below.

Example: Brisk walking is Don's favorite exercise.

1. Keeping a light on in the house helps discourage robbers.
2. Mrs. Norman enjoys playing bridge.
3. I remember promising Steve my old bike.
4. Standing during a two-hour train trip is not my idea of fun.
5. Do you like sailing on the lake?
6. Volunteering at the hospital is just one of Helen's activities.
7. Mrs. Brent enjoys watching quiz shows on television.
8. Allow twenty minutes a pound for roasting the turkey.
9. Taking out the garbage is not my favorite job around the house.
10. Understanding a foreign language and speaking it well are two different things.
11. Acting in high school and college plays helped prepare Tim for Broadway.
12. Collecting stamps is a popular hobby.
13. Rushing through your chores will get you nowhere.
14. Don't you ever get tired of listening to the radio?
15. Mr. Olson never tires of talking about his grandchildren.
16. Bird watching with binoculars is a popular pastime.
17. Arguing with me takes much of my little brother's time.
18. Constant complaining helps no one.
19. Listening to the concerto is sheer pleasure for Joan.
20. After standing behind the counter all day, Jim likes to relax at night.