

THE GERUND AND THE GERUND PHRASE (p. 79)

Enclose each (gerund or gerund phrase) in parentheses.

... as subject

1. (Exercising) is good for the figure.
2. Praying is good for the soul.
3. Mowing will keep the grass trim.
4. Reading has many benefits.
5. Writing makes a person exact.

6. (Quitting jobs) can become habitual.
7. Lighting fires is the preoccupation of a pyromaniac.
8. Lighting lights is the highlight of the lamplighter's life.
9. Bugging parents seems to be some teenagers' reason for existence.
10. Girding loins is a prerequisite for battle.

11. (Swimming in the winter) is all right for polar bears.
12. Drinking on the house can be conducive to acrophobia.
13. Flying from the coop is tricky business, especially for chickens.
14. Listening to Crystal Canyon was a real treat.
15. Rising to the occasion sometimes requires real courage.

16. (Bending the knee to the floor) may result in knighthood or marriage.
17. Singing ballads in a barroom might lead to a contract with Folkways Records.
18. Riding horses for a hobby can be debilitating.
19. Tasting honey in the wrong places is fraught with peril.
20. Chasing the Joker in his Batcar was Batman's chief thrill.

THE GERUND AND THE GERUND PHRASE (p.80)

. . . as direct object

21. Justice Douglas loves (hiking).
22. An active man can't stand sitting.
23. Kimball doesn't really like running.
24. The boy quit working.
25. He stopped thinking.

26. MacDonald dislikes (having farm animals)
27. Tarzan likes swinging from the trees.
28. He enjoyed growing a beard.
29. Camilla began doing "The Watusi."
30. The obsequious footman finally stopped holding the door open.

31. The Indian continued (standing in the rain forest in his hip boots).
32. The little boy disliked having nightmares about the ogre.
33. Frustrated poets stop writing poems.
34. The impresario wanted dancing all over the stage.
35. The insomniac tried sleeping in the daytime.

36. The President resented (seeing his caricature in MAD magazine).
37. The Allies began attacking the trenches at dawn.
38. Holmes enjoyed spying in the dark corners of Gothic chateaux.
39. The ground crew kept sweeping the sky with the searchlight.
40. Charon continued putting coins on the dead men's eyes.

THE GERUND AND THE GERUND PHRASE (p.81)

. . . as subjective complement (predicate noun)

41. Mr. Churchill's avocation was (painting).
42. Pavlova's main interest was dancing.
43. A politician's goal will always be winning.
44. Seeing is believing.
45. Believing is seeing.

46. Lou Groza's strong point was (kicking field goals).
47. A favorite pastime of girls is talking on the telephone.
48. Jay's special aptitude is making speeches before large audiences.
49. One's goal should be searching for what always lies ahead.
50. The dishonest tailor's main fault was lining his own pockets.

. . . as object of the preposition

51. We left after (seeing the movie)
52. After seeing the movie, we left.
53. Before exercising we jogged four laps.
54. We jogged four laps before exercising.
55. The class was exhausted from thinking and studying all day.

56. Before (shooting the foul shot) the player nervously bounced the ball on the floor.
57. After having won all of the marbles, the towheaded kid gathered his wealth and hurried home.
58. The citizens had many different views on being called for jury duty.
59. The underprivileged person seems to be a new man since having been given a fresh start in life.
60. The new teacher had some radical ideas on the grading and correcting of compositions.

THE GERUND AND THE GERUND PHRASE (p.82)

... as indirect object

61. He gave (going) a lot of consideration.
62. Joe gave weightlifting credit for his physique.

... as objective complement

63. I call that (good playing).
64. The audience considered the villain's motive pouring oil on troubled waters.

... as appositive

65. Nehru's task, (making peace) sometimes caused trouble.
66. The general's idea, attacking immediately, was poor strategy.
67. George enjoyed many happy hours at his favorite pastime, surfing.
68. The assignment, writing a short story, seemed impossible at first.
69. His job, approaching customers all day long, soon wore him out.

... as adverbial noun

70. He went (swimming).
71. He surfaced gasping.
72. The new neighbor came visiting.
73. Lady Brett Ashley went dancing all night long.
74. She went walking with the handsome stranger along the beach.

... with possessive preceding

75. Nothing became him like (his going).
76. John's whining rose to a querulous pitch.
77. Does your mother know about my winning?
78. Edward's swimming the Channel was miraculous.
79. No one could foresee George's acquiring the bicycle so soon.

THE GERUND AND THE GERUND PHRASE (p.83)

Enclose each (gerund or gerund phrase) in parentheses.

Tell the grammatical usage of each gerund.

1. Reading is enjoyable for most people.
2. Being shadowed can be very tiresome.
3. Writing compositions proved highly beneficial to the students.
4. Loafing at the local drugstore sometimes seems a waste of time.
5. Real athletes don't mind training or practicing.

6. The artist held his first showing in the old Studio Gallery.
7. Most Florentines disliked dining with the Borgias.
8. The riverboat gang resented losing money to Gaylord Mitty.
9. Doofy's favorite diversion is sailing frisbees from the study hall roof.
10. His ultimate downfall was not studying gerunds.

11. The boy's dream of glory was rescuing the head cheerleader from the path of an express train.
12. Kowalski's record was hitting seventy home runs in a season.
13. She disappeared after spending all of my allowance.
14. We took our shoes off upon entering the class on Far Eastern affairs.
15. In studying for the final exams, the ambitious students burned the midnight oil.

16. The editors of *The Evening Sun* take a dim view of our reading *The Morning News*.
17. His new business, raising cobras for fun and profit, proved hazardous.
18. We admired his obvious skill, threading a needle with his eyes shut.
19. Having asked the lovely lady to type our sentences was obviously a good move.
20. We eventually enjoyed going to summer school.

THE GERUND AND THE GERUND PHRASE (p.84)

21. Playing “Taps” at Arlington had been Prewitt’s chief military duty.
22. The best part of the party was the leaving of it.
23. Mothers can’t stand the crying of children.
24. In proof-reading, a person can make many mistakes.
25. George Fox enjoys three things—eating, watching television, and eating again.

26. The orchestra started playing a work by Shostakovitch.
27. Her chief dislike about the care of the automobile is washing it once a week.
28. His occupation, clipping coupons, has long fascinated me.
29. Near its source, the Seine delights in meandering through the village of Billy.
30. His filming of *The Magnificent Seven* was, in my opinion, Kurosawa’s greatest achievement as a film director.

31. Arguing unsuccessfully cannot possibly be one of Raymond Burr’s failings as an actor.
32. The young prince’s role was feigning poverty and assuming the guise of a pauper.
33. The Colonel’s Lady could not stand being compared to Rosie O’Grady.
34. The diplomats, in not talking earnestly to each other, nearly caused a major war.
35. His pleasure, listening to the music of The Beatles at full volume, caused quite a stirring among his neighbors at 3:00 a.m.

36. Lady Macbeth mounted her broomstick and went soaring into the night.
37. The applicant who detested filling out the forms collapsed in a state of nervousness.
38. Subscribing to the Boca Raton News was the first step in moving to that distant tropical area.
39. Overcome with glee, the fiendish scientist rubbed his hands together in anticipating the outcome of his wild scheme.
40. The two brothers liked engaging each other in many types of athletic contests.

THE GERUND AND THE GERUND PHRASE (p.85)

41. Socrates' main interests in life were debating and teaching.
42. Xantippe's main interest in life was thwarting Socrates.
43. The cellist gave playing for the President credit for his great success.
44. Maria Callas gave singing as the reason for her great breath control.
45. Fishing is fun—for everyone but the fish.

46. Rainsford disliked being hunted by the insane General Zaroff.
47. After having lost their twelfth straight game, the Erstwhiles sat glumly in their locker room.
48. His hobby was collecting girls.
49. Baiting a hook with worms can cause the squeamish to squeam.
50. Being seen in the Casbah with Pepe Le Moko proved to be a most unfortunate incident the young diplomat's career.

51. Running for Congress on the Republican ticket can be futile in some states.
52. The roly-poly child enjoyed eating anything it could get its hands on.
53. Very few people can tolerate constant teasing.
54. Before pitching the ball, Gomez checked the runner at first.
55. The odd boy supported himself in college by doing odd jobs.

56. After having been reprimanded for smoking in the hall, the thoughtless student started chewing tobacco.
57. His job for the summer was lifting and carrying large bales of peat moss.
58. Sneezing for 2000 days straight is not a desirable record to set.
59. *Shoeing* a horse is different from *shooing* a horse.
60. Upon being voted the boy most likely not to succeed in college, Doofy began to study.

THE GERUND AND THE GERUND PHRASE (p.86)

61. The students in the current events class enjoy the privilege of reading *Time* magazine in study hall.
62. Daydreaming was Walter Mitty's method of avoiding reality.
63. The three R's are reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic.
64. The Burma Shave signs once had a classic jingle: "If one-arm driving is your sport, trade your car for a davenport."
65. Sometimes seeing is not believing.

66. The giant tom cat enjoyed sunning himself all day long and sleeping in Mr. Eliot's hat.
67. After seeing the hopelessness of the situation and realizing the futility of trying to do anything about the shortage of ammunition, the patrol withdrew from the area.
68. Participating in extra-curricular activities can be a very positive experience.
69. The prospect of having been seen in the beauty parlor as he was waiting for his mother haunted the young athlete.
70. Upon discovering that she had been accepted by Coliseum College, Melissa let her hair grow very long and began to wear leotards.

71. In most prep schools one usually begins the day by attending chapel service.
72. Although Bruce enjoyed watching television by the hour, he could upon occasion tear himself away for the purpose of eating and sleeping.
73. The young man in the grey flannel suit gave writing a try before he settled down and became a junior executive for a chain of toy stores.
74. One cannot help wondering what he will do after graduating from high school.
75. Studying gerunds can become a dull pastime.

76. Roosevelt's favorite diversion was collecting stamps.
77. By studying last week's game films, the members of the defensive backfield were able to see their mistakes clearly.
78. The whole class enjoyed reading *Huckleberry Finn*, but no one particularly liked *Innocents Abroad*.
79. Riding a motorcycle can be fun, but falling off can be painful.
80. After lecturing to the student body for over half an hour on safety precautions, the speaker tripped on the edge of the podium and fell into the front row seats.

THE GERUND AND THE GERUND PHRASE (p.87)

81. Giving young children fountain pens can be disastrous.
82. The practice of contributing generously to worthy causes proves ennobling.
83. Martha gave practicing the piano a noble try, but she soon turned her attention to the neighborhood gang again.
84. The bane of Mary's existence is having to go to bed at 9:30 p.m. on school nights.
85. After arriving at sentence number eighty-five, the versatile young English teachers hated writing sentences with gerunds.

86. The idea of spending an entire month at the beach appealed to the boys.
87. Mr. Worthington's hobby, collecting rocks and minerals of the Piedmont area and classifying them, proved rewarding in the end.
88. His work's being published at such an early age altered the writer's sense of values.
89. After having been smitten by the young lady's charms, Pendergrast grew very pale and wan.
90. The signing of the Declaration of Independence was one of the single most decisive acts in Western Civilization.

91. After having studied *Hamlet* for a week, the entire class was near paranoia.
92. The uncooperative boy resented being sent home from school.
93. Savoring the delicious aromas and seeing the buffet tables piled high with food was really more than the hungry athletes could stand.
94. Roark's occupation, working in a granite quarry, added to his overall knowledge of materials used in building.
95. The maroon team resented our rolling up such a high score.

96. The difference between listening to a recording and attending a concert astounds most people.
97. The many incidents of pilfering and plundering that followed in the wake of the tornado didn't say much for human behavior.
98. After hearing Mr. Auden on the subject of writing poetry, one would have to believe that the greatest obstacle for a young poet to overcome is taking himself too seriously.
99. Most children's greatest security measure is thumb-sucking; most adults' is viewing the "idiot box."
100. After shaping the entire course of modern art, Cezanne died thinking that he was a failure.

Answers to odd numbered questions:

THE GERUND AND THE GERUND PHRASE--Section Questions (page 78)

- 1) Gerunds, participles, and infinitives are the three kinds of verbals.
- 2) Verbs are used as predicates of sentences; verbals are used as nouns, adjectives, and adverbs.
- 3) Verbals may express action, may have modifiers, and may be followed by complements (objects).
- 4) A gerund is a verb form ending in -ing that is used as a noun (and sometimes as an adverbial noun).
- 5) Yes, a gerund can have objects and modifiers.
- 6) A gerund phrase is a phrase consisting of a gerund and any complements (objects) or modifiers it may have.
- 7) The four forms of the gerund for the verb "to see" are: seeing (present active); being seen (present passive); having seen (present perfect active); having been seen (present perfect passive)
- 8) Gerunds and gerund phrases may be used in sentences any way that nouns may be used.
- 9) There are not any particular rules of punctuation for the gerund phrase.
- 10) When a noun or pronoun precedes a gerund, it should be made possessive.

THE GERUND AND THE GERUND PHRASE--Sample Exercises (page 79-82)

- 1) (Exercising) subject
- 2) (Praying) subject
- 3) (Mowing) subject
- 4) (Reading) subject
- 5) (Writing) subject
- 6) (Quitting jobs) subject
- 7) (Lighting fires) subject
- 8) (Lighting lights) subject
- 9) (Bugging parents) subject
- 10) (Girding loins) subject
- 11) (Swimming in the winter) subject
- 12) (Drinking on the house) subject
- 13) (Flying from the coop) subject
- 14) (Listening to Crystal Canyon) subject
- 15) (Rising to the occasion) subject
- 16) (Bending the knee to the floor) subject
- 17) (Singing ballads in a barroom) subject
- 18) (Riding horses for a hobby) subject
- 19) (Tasting honey in the wrong places) subject
- 20) (Chasing the Joker in his Batcar) subject
- 21) (hiking) direct object
- 22) (sitting) direct object
- 23) (running) direct object
- 24) (working) direct object
- 25) (thinking) direct object
- 26) (having farm animals) direct object
- 27) (swinging from the trees) direct object
- 28) (growing a beard) direct object
- 29) (doing "The Watusi.") direct object
- 30) (holding the door open) direct object
- 31) (standing in the rain forest in his hip boots) direct object
- 32) (having nightmares about the ogre) direct object
- 33) (writing poems) direct object
- 34) (dancing all over the stage) direct object
- 35) (sleeping in the daytime) direct object
- 36) (seeing his caricature in MAD magazine) direct object
- 37) (attacking the trenches at dawn) direct object
- 38) (spying in the dark corners of Gothic chateaux) direct object
- 39) (sweeping the sky with the searchlight) direct object
- 40) (putting coins on the dead men's eyes) direct object

- 41) (painting) predicate noun
- 42) (dancing) predicate noun
- 43) (winning) predicate noun
- 44) (believing) predicate noun
- 45) (seeing) predicate noun
- 46) (kicking field goals) predicate noun
- 47) (talking on the telephone) predicate noun
- 48) (making speeches before large audiences) predicate noun
- 49) (searching for what always lies ahead) predicate noun
- 50) (lining his own pockets) predicate noun
- 51) (seeing the movie) object of the preposition "after"
- 52) (seeing the movie) object of the preposition "after"
- 53) (exercising) object of the preposition "Before"
- 54) (exercising) object of the preposition "before"
- 55) (thinking) (studying all day) both are objects of the preposition "from"
- 56) (shooting the foul shot) object of the preposition "Before"
- 57) (having won all of the marbles) object of the preposition "After"
- 58) (being called for jury duty) object of the preposition "on"
- 59) (having been given a fresh start in life) object of the preposition "since"
- 60) (grading) (correcting of compositions) both are objects of the preposition "on"
- 61) (going) indirect object
- 62) (weightlifting) indirect object
- 63) (good playing) objective complement (noun)
- 64) (pouring oil on troubled waters) objective complement (noun)
- 65) (making peace) appositive for "task"
- 66) (attacking immediately) appositive for "idea"
- 67) (surfing) appositive for "pastime"
- 68) (writing a short story) appositive for "assignment"
- 69) (approaching customers all day long) appositive for "job"
- 70) (swimming) adverbial noun
- 71) (gasping) adverbial noun
- 72) (visiting) adverbial noun
- 73) (dancing all night long) adverbial noun
- 74) (walking with the handsome stranger along the beach) adverbial noun
- 75) (his going) object of the preposition "like" with the possessive preceding
- 76) (John's whining) subject with the possessive preceding
- 77) (my winning) object of the preposition "about" with the possessive preceding
- 78) (Edward's swimming the Channel) subject with the possessive preceding
- 79) (George's acquiring the bicycle so soon) direct object with the possessive preceding

THE GERUND AND THE GERUND PHRASE--Exercises (pages 83-87)

- 1) (Reading) subject
- 3) (Writing compositions) subject
- 5) (training) (practicing) both are direct objects
- 7) (dining with the Borgias) direct object
- 9) (sailing frisbees from the study hall roof) predicate noun
- 11) (rescuing the head cheerleader from the path of an express train) predicate noun
- 13) (spending all of my allowance) object of the preposition "after"
- 15) (studying for the final exams) object of the preposition "In"
- 17) (raising cobras for fun and profit) appositive for "business"
- 19) (Having asked the lovely lady to type our sentences) subject
- 21) (Playing "Taps" at Arlington) subject
- 23) (the crying of children) direct object
- 25) (eating) (watching television) (eating again) appositives for "things"
- 27) (washing it once a week) predicate noun

- 29) (meandering through the village of Billy) object of the preposition “in”
- 31) (Arguing unsuccessfully) subject
- 33) (being compared to Rosie O’Grady) direct object
- 35) (listening to the music of The Beatles at full volume) appositive for “pleasure”; (quite a stirring among his neighbors) direct object
- 37) (filling out the forms) direct object
- 39) (anticipating the outcome of her wild scheme) object of the preposition “in”
- 41) (debating) (teaching) both predicate nouns
- 43) (playing for the President) indirect object
- 45) (Fishing) subject
- 47) (having lost their twelfth straight game) object of the preposition “After”
- 49) (Baiting a hook with worms) subject
- 51) (Running for Congress on the Republican ticket) subject
- 53) (constant teasing) direct object
- 55) (doing odd jobs) object of the preposition “by”
- 57) (lifting) and (carrying large bales of peat moss) Both predicate nouns
- 59) (Shoeing a horse) subject; (shooing a horse) object of the preposition “from”
- 61) (reading Time magazine in study hall) object of the preposition “of”
- 63) (reading) (‘riting) both are predicate nouns
- 65) (seeing) subject; (not believing) predicate noun
- 67) (seeing the hopelessness of the situation) object of the preposition “After”; (realizing the futility of (trying to do anything about the shortage of ammunition)) object of the preposition “After”; object of the preposition “of”
- 69) (having been seen in the beauty parlor as he was waiting for his mother) object of the preposition “of”
- 71) (attending chapel service) object of the preposition “by”
- 73) (writing) indirect object
- 75) (Studying gerunds) subject
- 77) (studying last week’s game films) object of the preposition “By”
- 79) (Riding a motorcycle) (falling off) both are subjects
- 81) (Giving young children fountain pens) subject
- 83) (practicing the piano) indirect object
- 85) (arriving at sentence number eighty-five) object of the preposition “After”; (writing sentences with gerunds) direct object
- 87) (collecting rocks and minerals of the Piedmont area) and (classifying them) both appositives for “hobby”
- 89) (having been smitten by the young lady’s charms) object of the preposition “After”
- 91) (having studied Hamlet for a week) object of the preposition “After”
- 93) (Savoring the delicious aromas) (seeing the buffet tables piled high with food) both subjects
- 95) (our rolling up such a high score) direct object
- 97) (pilfering) and (plundering) both objects of the preposition “of”
- 99) (thumb-sucking); (viewing the “idiot box.”) both predicate nouns