

Gerund Phrases

16h. A *gerund phrase* consists of a gerund and any modifiers or complements the gerund has. The entire phrase is used as a noun.

EXAMPLES Working efficiently is key to finishing a job.
I like walking in the park or sitting in the porch swing.

EXERCISE A Underline the gerund phrases in the following sentences.

Example 1. Connie kept handing out toys until every child at the shelter had received one.

- Equipment for sledding and ice-skating around this pond may be rented over there.
- On tonight's program, let's give engineering in this century a closer look.
- Departing and arriving through customs is now easier for international passengers.
- Tullie didn't mind licking the new, mint-flavored stamps.
- Many students support local charities by volunteering time after school.
- Voting for your favorite candidate is the best way to promote responsible government.
- Without excavating further, the archaeologist could not estimate the age of the site.
- Doesn't raising the flag on the mailbox tell the letter carrier we have mail for pickup?
- Once the train left the station, it made up time and began running on schedule again.
- Two important parts of Stan's business were greeting customers and managing time.

EXERCISE B Underline the gerund phrases in the following sentences. Then, above each gerund phrase, identify its function in the sentence by writing *S* for *subject*, *PN* for *predicate nominative*, *DO* for *direct object*, *IO* for *indirect object*, or *OP* for *object of preposition*.

Example 1. Give ^{*IO*} visiting Australia a second thought.

- Riding on the top level of a double-decker bus lets tourists see better.
- All the actors gave singing in the melodrama their wholehearted effort.
- Grandmother loves dropping in for a visit with us.
- According to the committee's air quality report, carpooling for work would be an asset.
- Is autographing books for their fans a task most authors enjoy?
- First on Juan's checklist was verifying names, addresses, and phone numbers.
- The electrician began removing the knockout circles on the box for the light switch.
- Our cheering and yelling at the celebration party took the team by surprise.