

## LESSON FIFTEEN

### 15-1 GERUNDS

1. A gerund is a noun that has been formed from a verb. Any verb can be turned into a gerund by adding *-ing* to the simple form of the verb.

*walk, walking      play, playing      be, being*

When changing some verbs into gerunds, changes in spelling may be necessary.

*lie, lying*

Be careful not to confuse gerunds with present participles.

*Gerund: Swimming is good for you.*

*Present participle: Why aren't you swimming with the others?*

2. Gerunds function as nouns in a sentence.

*Jogging is good exercise.* (subject of the sentence)

*My favorite form of exercise is jogging.* (subject complement)

*I have always enjoyed jogging.* (direct object)

*My roommate is against jogging.* (object of a preposition)

*His favorite form of exercise, dancing, is more enjoyable.* (appositive)

3. A gerund phrase is formed with an object, a complement, and/or other modifiers. In the first sentence, *children* is the direct object of the gerund *interviewing*. In the second sentence, *tennis* is the direct object of the gerund *playing*.

*Interviewing small children is amusing.*

*Playing tennis is fun.*

4. To make a gerund negative, *not* is placed immediately before the gerund.

Compare:

*Betty regretted not seeing that movie.*

*Betty did not regret seeing that movie.*

In the first sentence, the gerund *seeing* is negative. Betty did not see the movie, and she regretted having missed it. In the second sentence, the verb *regret* is negative. Betty saw the movie, and she was not sorry that she had gone to it.

**Exercise 1** ■ ■ ■ Read the story and underline all the gerunds and gerund phrases.

I always thought I loved flying—until the other day, that is. First, the plane was delayed for more than three hours because of bad weather, and finding somewhere to sit in the airport was very difficult. I ended up sitting near a bunch of teenagers who were playing loud music and making so much noise that nobody else wanted to be near them.

When we were finally allowed to board the plane, getting to my seat proved to be difficult. First, some little kids were running up and down the aisle, and nobody wanted to tell them to stop doing so. When I did, the kids looked at me like I was nuts and then went back to doing what they had been doing before. Only the flight attendant was able to get them to sit down. When I got to my seat, I saw that two of the teenagers who had been torturing me for nearly three hours were sitting next to me. I said to myself, "At least, it's a short flight."

That turned out not to be the case. When we were ready to take off, the pilot announced that there was a failure in the flight controllers' computer system, and taking off wouldn't be possible until the system was fixed. We sat on the runway for two hours without being told anything, and believe me, sitting in a hot plane—the air conditioning system wasn't working—for two hours next to two fun-loving teenagers is about the worst way you can imagine spending your time.

"So how was the flight?" you want to know. There was no flight. The passengers ended up taking the train, courtesy of the airline. We arrived twelve hours late, and getting a taxi in the middle of the night was no fun. But we did arrive, and I guess we should be thankful for small favors. It will be a long time before I consider flying anywhere again.

**Exercise 2** ■ ■ ■ With another student, practice asking and answering questions containing negative gerund phrases.

Example: A: When you were small, did you regret not always listening to your parents?

B: I sometimes regretted not listening to my parents, but not always.



1. Please, would you mind \_\_\_\_\_?
2. Have your parents ever regretted \_\_\_\_\_?
3. Do you sometimes miss \_\_\_\_\_?
4. Can you imagine \_\_\_\_\_?
5. As a child, did you hate \_\_\_\_\_?
6. When you get married, will you consider \_\_\_\_\_?
7. Do you enjoy \_\_\_\_\_?
8. If your friends want to go out tonight, will you suggest \_\_\_\_\_?
9. If a new student talked to you about the school, would you advise \_\_\_\_\_?
10. When you were a child, do you remember \_\_\_\_\_?

## 15-2 GERUND/GERUND PHRASE FUNCTIONING AS SUBJECT AND SUBJECT COMPLEMENT

### Subject of the Sentence

*Traveling is enjoyable.*

*Traveling with young children can be difficult.*

*Finding a good hotel is not always easy.*

### Subject Complement

*My mother's hobby is gardening.*

*My father's favorite pastime is collecting foreign stamps.*

*What he really enjoys is getting rare stamps.*

### Exercise 3

Replace *it + the infinitive phrase* in each sentence by a gerund phrase.

**Example:** My grandparents loved children, so it was an enjoyable experience to spend weekends with them.

My grandparents loved children, so spending weekends with them was an enjoyable experience.

1. It really annoys most mothers to have to tell their children to clean up their rooms all the time.
2. If it is raining and they can't go outside, it appeals to most children to play video games.
3. My parents didn't have a television when they were young, so their way of relaxing after school was to play in the garden.
4. It takes a lot of time for parents to help their children with their homework.
5. It is a big responsibility for every parent to make sure children learn right from wrong.
6. It demands a lot of patience from both parents to answer children's questions all the time.
7. In many families, it has always been the father's job to earn a living.
8. In many countries, it has usually been the woman's responsibility to take care of the children.
9. As children grow up, it becomes more difficult to get them to obey.
10. It is not easy for children to please their parents.

#### Exercise 4

Complete each sentence, using a gerund or gerund phrase as subject of the sentence.

Examples: *Listening to the news* really depresses me sometimes.

*Sleeping* is my favorite pastime.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is an excellent form of exercise.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ has changed my life.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is going to be very difficult for me.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ has always been important to me.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is not easy in a foreign country.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ will be the most difficult thing for me to do when I return home.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ is foolish, considering the price of gasoline.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ seems to be a favorite American pastime.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ has never made me comfortable.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ will be a difficult job for the next U.S. president.



## Exercise 5

In a group of three or four, discuss how you would complete the sentences. Use a gerund or gerund phrase as subject complement.

Example: One solution to the large number of cars on the roads is car pooling.

1. My biggest problem during this course is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. My favorite form of recreation is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. If I were the leader of my country, my main concern would be \_\_\_\_\_.
4. After five hours of classes every day, my one thought is \_\_\_\_\_.
5. One of my major goals in life has always been \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Before I left my country, my one fear was \_\_\_\_\_.
7. When driving in a downtown area of a city, a big frustration is always \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Mankind's highest aim should be \_\_\_\_\_.
9. My mother's biggest fault is \_\_\_\_\_.
10. If I had a million dollars, my one desire would be \_\_\_\_\_.

### 15-3 GERUND/GERUND PHRASE FUNCTIONING AS DIRECT OBJECT

#### Verb + Gerund/Gerund Phrase

admit	detest	keep <sup>2</sup>	recall
appreciate <sup>1</sup>	discuss	mention	recommend
avoid	enjoy	mind <sup>3</sup>	resent
can't help	escape	miss	resist
consider	excuse <sup>1</sup>	postpone	risk
defer	finish	practice	suggest
delay	forgive	prevent	tolerate
deny	imagine	quit	understand <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The verbs *appreciate*, *excuse*, and *understand* are always followed by the possessive before the gerund. (*Do you understand her wanting to live alone?*)

<sup>2</sup>The verb *keep* is followed by a gerund when it means *continue*. (*George keeps doing that even though I've told him to stop.*)

<sup>3</sup>The verb *mind* is followed by a gerund when it means *dislike*. (*I don't mind going there alone.*)

- The gerund or gerund phrase may follow a verb and function as the direct object, but not every verb in English can take a gerund or gerund phrase as the direct object. The verbs in the box above are among the most commonly used verbs that can be followed by a gerund or gerund phrase.
- In formal English, the possessive is often used before a gerund/gerund phrase.

Formal: *I couldn't understand his coming late.*  
*I couldn't understand Norman's coming late.*

In informal usage, however, speakers of English often use the object form of a personal pronoun or the noun without the possessive inflection.

Informal: *I couldn't understand him coming late.*  
*I couldn't understand Norman coming late.*

When a possessive is used before a gerund/gerund phrase, there is often a change in meaning.

*We enjoyed singing.* (We were singing.)

*We enjoyed the choir's singing.* (We were listening to the choir.)

### Exercise 6

Complete the sentences, using a possessive + a gerund/gerund phrase made of the words in the box.

*come late*

*excuse them for being late*

*do some extra review*

*go to the language lab more often*

*get a low grade*

*interrupt her explanation*

*not wait for their turn*

*tell them off*

*visit a museum*

Example: The teacher did not appreciate my interrupting her explanation.

- Because of the bad weather, Maria's instructor excused \_\_\_\_\_.
- Maria and her classmates really appreciated \_\_\_\_\_.
- Maria studied very hard for the last test, so she couldn't understand \_\_\_\_\_.
- Because so many students did poorly on the test, the instructor suggested \_\_\_\_\_.
- Although Maria has a good class, a few students constantly speak out of turn. She hates \_\_\_\_\_.



6. Maria's instructor told two students that she wasn't happy with their behavior. They didn't like \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Maria talked to her instructor about her pronunciation problems. Her instructor recommended \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The students in Maria's class would like to do something different next week. The instructor has discussed \_\_\_\_\_.

### Exercise 7

With another student, complete the sentences, using a gerund or gerund phrase as direct object. Then write a news report of the trial. First decide whether your report will be for a newspaper article or for a TV broadcast.

1. In the courtroom, the defendant admitted \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The defendant's lawyer couldn't avoid \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The defendant had always been a quiet man, but on the night of the crime he could not help \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Because he had never been in trouble with the law, the judge considered \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The jury needed more time, so it delayed \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The defendant's wife detested \_\_\_\_\_.
7. That night he and his wife discussed \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The trial was interesting, but I don't really enjoy \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Actually, many times the defendant could not finish \_\_\_\_\_.
10. I have never been in jail, so I can't imagine \_\_\_\_\_.
11. While the defendant's lawyer was speaking, the lawyer for the prosecution kept \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Because the jury could not agree on the defendant's innocence or guilt, the judge postponed \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Finally, the judge gave his verdict, and the defendant's wife quit \_\_\_\_\_.
14. The defendant seemed to be such a quiet man that I can't resist \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Nevertheless, I really don't understand (his) \_\_\_\_\_.



## 15-4 GERUND AS DIRECT OBJECT VS. INFINITIVE AS DIRECT OBJECT

### Verbs Followed by Gerunds or Infinitives

1. Some verbs are followed by a gerund or gerund phrase. (For a complete list of these verbs, see Appendix 4 on page 305.)

*Why haven't you finished cleaning?*

*I resent his talking to me like that.*

*Richard cannot risk losing his job.*

2. Some verbs are followed by an infinitive or infinitive phrase. (For a complete list of these verbs, see Appendix 3 on pages 302–304.)

*My parents always encouraged me to do my best.*

*I warned you not to go there.*

*The police officer ordered me to stop.*

### Exercise 8

Make a sentence with each pair of words. Use any subject and tense.

Examples: deny/break

Both of them denied breaking the window.

tell/clean

My father will tell me to clean my room before I go to the movies.

- |                 |                |                   |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. finish/study | 6. mind/walk   | 11. discuss/find  |
| 2. recommend/go | 7. afford/stay | 12. manage/get    |
| 3. offer/drive  | 8. avoid/make  | 13. deserve/win   |
| 4. promised/do  | 9. hope/hear   | 14. detest/work   |
| 5. admit/write  | 10. keep/talk  | 15. consider/take |



**Exercise 9** ■ ■ In a group of three or four, take turns completing the sentences truthfully.

1. When I'm 45, I hope I'll be able to afford \_\_\_\_\_.
2. When I'm 45, I'll probably miss \_\_\_\_\_.
3. When I'm 45, I don't think I'll enjoy \_\_\_\_\_.
4. When I'm 45, I'll refuse \_\_\_\_\_.
5. When I'm 45, I hope I'll have finished \_\_\_\_\_.
6. When I'm 45, I might detest \_\_\_\_\_.
7. When I'm 45, I won't be able to escape \_\_\_\_\_.
8. When I'm 45, I would like to be able to quit \_\_\_\_\_.
9. When I'm 45, I'll advise \_\_\_\_\_.
10. When I'm 45, I'll need \_\_\_\_\_.
11. When I'm 45, I won't mind \_\_\_\_\_.
12. When I'm 45, I hope I'll have learned \_\_\_\_\_.
13. When I'm 45, I expect \_\_\_\_\_.
14. When I'm 45, I'll probably consider \_\_\_\_\_.

■ **Verbs Followed by Gerunds or Infinitives with No Change in Meaning** ■

advise	can't bear	intend	neglect
allow	continue	like	permit
attempt	forbid	love	prefer
begin	hate	need	start

*I love **traveling**.*      *Nonsmokers hate **sitting** near smokers.*

*I love **to travel**.*      *Nonsmokers hate **to sit** near smokers.*

1. The verbs *advise*, *allow*, *forbid*, and *permit* are followed by a noun or pronoun object before the infinitive. Compare:

*Our travel agent advised us **to take** a European vacation.*

*Our travel agent advised **taking** a European vacation.*

*Professor Muraki doesn't allow anyone **to leave** the room during an exam.*

*Professor Muraki doesn't allow **leaving** the room during an exam.*

*My father forbids me to smoke in his house.*

*My father forbids smoking in his house.*

*The landlord doesn't permit any resident to have a pet in the apartment building.*

*The landlord doesn't permit having a pet in the apartment building.*

2. The verbs *begin* and *start* take either a gerund or an infinitive. But if the verb following *begin* or *start* is a verb of "knowing" or "understanding" (such as *reflect*, *contemplate*, *perceive*), the infinitive is more common.

*After a few minutes, we started to understand the explanation.*

*As I watched the report of the earthquake victim, I began to perceive the horror of such a disaster.*

3. After the verbs *attempt* and *intend*, gerunds are possible, but infinitives are more common.

*Ron attempted moving the piano by himself.*

*Ron attempted to move the piano by himself.*

4. With the verb *need*, the gerund is similar in meaning to the passive infinitive.

*My car needs washing.*

*My car needs to be washed.*

### Exercise 10 ■■

Answer the questions. If the question contains an infinitive, use a gerund. If the question contains a gerund, use an infinitive.

Examples: If it begins to rain, are you going to cancel the picnic?

Of course, we'll cancel it if it begins raining.

Did the radio announcer continue asking for donations?

Yes, he continued to ask for donations.

- I understand that Miriam is looking for a new job. Doesn't she like to work here anymore?
- Wouldn't she prefer to have a job where she could travel once in a while?
- Hasn't she neglected doing much of her work lately?
- When will she start looking for another job?
- Did you advise going to an employment agency or checking the want ads in the newspaper?



6. She has excellent sales experience. Couldn't she begin working as a salesman?
7. Does she intend leaving before she finds another job?
8. Doesn't our company policy forbid quitting without giving at least two weeks notice?
9. She really looks depressed. Don't you agree that she needs cheering up?
10. She is such a nice person. Don't you hate to see her so depressed?

### ■ Verbs Followed by Gerunds or Infinitives with a Change in Meaning ■

forget	regret	try
mean	remember	used to/be used to
propose	stop	

1. After the verbs *forget*, *remember*, and *regret*, the infinitive is used if it refers to an action that happens after the action of the main verb. If the action happens before the action of the main verb, a gerund is used. Compare the pairs of sentences.

*I was really annoyed that my sister forgot to show up for the party.* (She didn't show up. Forgetting occurred before showing up.)

*My sister forgets ever being in the hospital.* (She has forgotten that she was ever in the hospital. Being in the hospital occurred before forgetting.)

*I remembered to write down the assignment, so I was able to do it.* (First I remembered; remembering occurred before writing.)

*I remember writing down the assignment. Where is it?* (Writing occurred before remembering.)

*I regret to tell you that you are not going to get the promotion.* (I'm going to tell you news. Regretting occurs before telling.)

*I regret telling you the bad news.* (Telling occurred before regretting.)

2. An infinitive follows the verb *mean* when the meaning is *to intend*. A gerund follows the verb *mean* when it means *to result in*; *mean* + gerund is used only with an impersonal subject.

*The police detective means to solve this crime even if it means forgetting about his other work.*

*I'm tired of working such long hours. I mean to quit my second job even if it means having less money.*

3. When the verb *propose* means *to plan* or *intend*, the infinitive follows. When the verb *propose* means *to suggest*, a gerund follows.

*We propose to leave early tomorrow morning.* (We plan to leave early.)

*I propose leaving before 6:00 A.M.* (I suggest leaving before 6:00 A.M.)

4. When the verb *stop* means *in order to do something*, an infinitive follows. When the verb *stop* means *to quit*, a gerund follows.

*I stopped to talk to Jamilla.* (I stopped in order to talk to Jamilla.)

*I stopped talking to Jamilla.* (I don't talk to Jamilla anymore.)

5. When the verb *try* means *to make an effort*, an infinitive follows. When the verb *try* means *to experiment*, a gerund follows.

*I've been looking for an apartment for several weeks. I tried to go to a real estate agent, but the office was closed.* (I made an effort to go to a real estate agent.)

*I've been looking for an apartment for several weeks. I tried going to a real estate agent, but she couldn't help me.* (I went to a real estate agent as one way of finding an apartment.)

6. When *used to* refers to a habitual past action, an infinitive follows. When *be used to* means *to be accustomed to*, a gerund follows.

*We used to drive to Chicago from Nevada every other month to see our parents.* (We did this again and again, but we don't anymore.)

*We were used to driving long distances, so the trips didn't bother us.* (We were accustomed to driving long distances.)

### Exercise 11

Circle the word or words that best complete the following sentences.

- I tried \_\_\_\_\_ you, but the line was always busy.
  - calling
  - to call
- My father stopped \_\_\_\_\_ a few years ago. He has felt much better ever since then.
  - smoking
  - to smoke
- I hope you remembered \_\_\_\_\_ the windows. It looks like it's going to rain.
  - closing
  - to close



4. I'll never forget \_\_\_\_\_ the president of the United States. It was a memorable day.
  - a. meeting
  - b. to meet
5. I forgot \_\_\_\_\_ my book. Can I go back to my room and get it?
  - a. bringing
  - b. to bring
6. I'm used to \_\_\_\_\_ grammar exercises like these, but it wasn't easy when I first started learning English.
  - a. doing
  - b. to do
7. You should try \_\_\_\_\_ the baby. That may make him stop crying.
  - a. holding
  - b. to hold
8. Don't you remember \_\_\_\_\_ to that restaurant the last time we came here?
  - a. going
  - b. to go
9. I stopped \_\_\_\_\_ a drink because I was very thirsty.
  - a. to get
  - b. getting
10. We regret \_\_\_\_\_ you that you have not been granted a scholarship.
  - a. informing
  - b. to inform
11. I know it may mean \_\_\_\_\_ her angry, but I'm still going to tell her what I think.
  - a. making
  - b. to make
12. The university proposes \_\_\_\_\_ new housing on the outskirts of the campus.
  - a. building
  - b. to build

### Exercise 12 ■■

Find and correct the ten mistakes in the text.

Do you enjoy to play the lottery? Did you ever stop to think what a bad idea it actually is? First, the people who can least afford playing are the ones who do. Even if

it means to have difficulty paying for rent and food, and even if they have little chance of ever winning much money, these unfortunate people don't seem to mind to spend their time waiting in line to buy those tickets and being disappointed every time they lose—which is always.

I knew that before I read a recent article about the lottery. What I didn't know was how playing the lottery actually ruined the lives of those who saw their dreams come true: they won millions. I hate to tell all of you lottery players this, but money not only fails buying happiness; it also doesn't even buy a good time. It turns out that most of those big winners who lottery players so envy are actually miserable once the initial joy of winning fades.

First, there's the world of work. If the lottery winners continue working, their co-workers start to resent their take the job of someone who really needs the work. Eventually, the winners are forced to stop to work. That leads to new misery: what to do with all their free time?

Next are the friends and relatives who expect the winner to lend them money and pick up all the checks. They pretend liking the winner when all they really like is all the winner's money. This wouldn't be so bad if the recipients of the generosity showed some gratitude; unfortunately, all they show is jealousy and contempt and eventually disappear just like the jobs do.

What is the moral of this story? Playing the lottery is a bad idea not only because you have almost no chance of winning it but because you may win. How will the knowledge of the evils of the lottery affect me? I guess I'm going to keep to play it, but I'm certainly going to stop to hope that I win. I'm doing too well in my ordinary life to risk being successful.

### Exercise 13 ■ ■ ■

*In a group of three or four, discuss how you would complete the sentences. If you are already married, you will have to change the tense of most of the sentences.*

1. When I get married, I will begin \_\_\_\_\_.
2. I will allow my spouse \_\_\_\_\_.
3. As a parent, I will attempt \_\_\_\_\_.
4. When I get married, I hope \_\_\_\_\_.



5. As a spouse, I'll refuse \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Before I get married, I intend \_\_\_\_\_.
7. If my spouse and I have trouble, I will consider \_\_\_\_\_.
8. When I get married, I will quit \_\_\_\_\_.
9. When I get married, I will promise \_\_\_\_\_.
10. A single person can't imagine \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Even when I am married, I will continue \_\_\_\_\_.
12. When I am married, I will enjoy \_\_\_\_\_.
13. When I have children, I will try \_\_\_\_\_.
14. When I first get married, I won't be used \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Some people will never get married even if it means \_\_\_\_\_.
16. Before people get married, they need \_\_\_\_\_.

### Exercise 14

Read the dialogs. With another student, discuss possible answers to each question. Use a gerund or infinitive phrase.

1. **Dina:** Isn't this wonderful?  
**Nora:** Oh, it's absolutely spectacular.  
What are Dina and Nora enjoying? \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Nick:** Didn't Jack look awful?  
**Anna:** He certainly did. He really needs to make some changes in his life.  
What should Jack stop? \_\_\_\_\_
3. **Carl:** It's really hard to make a decision.  
**Fred:** Why don't you talk to your father?  
What is Carl considering? \_\_\_\_\_
4. **Nick:** Look at the car. How could that have happened?  
**Dina:** Don't look at me. I didn't do it.  
What did Dina deny? \_\_\_\_\_
5. **Carl:** Do we have enough money?  
**Nora:** Probably, but are you sure you like that one?  
What do Carl and Nora intend? \_\_\_\_\_
6. **Anna:** Why don't you come with me? There will be a lot of people for you to meet.  
**Fred:** No, that kind of thing isn't for me.  
What does Fred dislike? \_\_\_\_\_

7. **Bill:** Will you ever forget that day?  
**Joni:** Never! It was a terrible experience.  
 What will Joni never forget? \_\_\_\_\_
8. **Nick:** It was a terrible mistake. How I could have done something so stupid?  
**Nora:** It's not the end of the world. You'll find something else.  
 What does Nick regret? \_\_\_\_\_
9. **Joni:** This is awful!  
**Dina:** I know. But what can we do about it?  
 What can't Dina and Joni bear? \_\_\_\_\_
10. **Fred:** It's at 8:00, right?  
**Neal:** Yeah. Don't forget.  
 What shouldn't Fred forget? \_\_\_\_\_

## 15-5 GERUND/GERUND PHRASE FUNCTIONING AS OBJECT OF A PREPOSITION

### GROUP 1: Verb + Preposition + Gerund/Gerund Phrase

adjust to	comment on	look forward to
agree with	complain about	object to
apologize for	concentrate on	plan on
apologize to (someone) for	consist of	refer to
approve of	deal with	see about
argue about	depend on/upon	talk about
believe in	dream about	think about
blame (someone) for	forget about	warn (someone) about
care about	forgive (someone) for	worry about
care for	insist on	

1. Some verb + preposition combinations are always followed by a gerund. The combinations in the box above are among the most commonly used ones.

*The children insisted on going to the zoo.*

*I'm looking forward to going on vacation.*

*We don't object to our daughter's living alone.*



2. The verb + preposition combinations in the box can be used in these patterns.

Pattern 1: subject + verb + preposition + gerund phrase

*She apologized for being late.*

Pattern 2: subject + verb + preposition + possessive + gerund phrase

*Bruce worries about his daughter's living alone.*

Pattern 3: subject + verb + object + preposition + gerund phrase

*The police officer accused me of speeding on the freeway.*

3. These verbs can be used only in pattern 3.

accuse ... of

pay ... for

congratulate ... on

prevent ... from

devote ... to

thank ... for

### Exercise 15

Complete each question with the correct preposition. Try to complete the sentences without looking at the list of verbs + prepositions on the previous page.

Example: After class today, what do you have to see about?

1. What are you devoting yourself \_\_\_\_\_ these days?
2. What did your parents prevent you \_\_\_\_\_ doing when you were a child?
3. Who was the last person you paid? What did you pay this person \_\_\_\_\_?
4. Who was the last person you thanked? What did you thank this person \_\_\_\_\_?
5. When was the last time you apologized? What did you apologize \_\_\_\_\_?
6. When you first came to the United States, what did you have to adjust \_\_\_\_\_?
7. Have you argued with anyone recently? What did you argue \_\_\_\_\_?
8. What doesn't your father approve \_\_\_\_\_?
9. Before you left your country, what did your mother warn you \_\_\_\_\_?
10. What do you plan \_\_\_\_\_ doing this weekend?
11. What does the teacher always insist \_\_\_\_\_?

12. What are you trying to forget \_\_\_\_\_?
13. What did you dream \_\_\_\_\_?
14. What have you been concentrating \_\_\_\_\_ since this course began?
15. As a student, what do you really care \_\_\_\_\_?

### Exercise 16

With another student, practice asking and answering the questions in Exercise 15. Use gerund phrases.

Example: A: After class today, what do you have to see about?

B: *I have to see about finding an apartment.*

### GROUP 2: Adjective + Preposition + Gerund/Gerund Phrase

accustomed to <sup>1</sup>	excited about <sup>1</sup>	proud of
afraid of	famous for	responsible for
angry at	generous about	sorry about
appropriate for	good at	sure of/about
ashamed of	grateful to (someone)	surprised at <sup>1</sup>
concerned about <sup>1</sup>	grateful for (something)	tired of <sup>1</sup>
content with	incapable of	used to <sup>2</sup>
delighted at <sup>1</sup>	interested in <sup>1</sup>	worried about <sup>1</sup>
essential to	lazy about	

<sup>1</sup> These verbs are past participles used as adjectives.

<sup>2</sup> The adjective *used to* is followed by a gerund when it means *accustomed to*.  
(*I'm not used to eating such spicy food.*)

1. The adjective + preposition combinations listed in the box above are among the most commonly used ones.

*My aunt was concerned about leaving too early.*

*However, she was not interested in staying all day.*

2. The adjective + preposition combinations in the box often follow after the verbs *be*, *seem*, *appear*, *remain*, *look*, *become*.



### Exercise 17

With another student, practice asking and answering the following questions. Use gerund phrases. If you've already done Exercise 16, do this exercise with a different student.

1. Since you've been away from home, what have you become accustomed to?
2. When you were a small child, what were you afraid of?
3. Before you left your country, what was your mother concerned about?
4. What do you usually feel excited about?
5. What would you like to become famous for?
6. What have you always been interested in?
7. The last time you were ashamed of yourself, what were you ashamed of?
8. What are you grateful to your parents for?
9. What are you good at?
10. What are you responsible for these days?

### GROUP 3: Noun + Preposition + Gerund/Gerund Phrase

difficulty in	interest in
in addition to	in the course of
in charge of	in the middle of
in danger of	need for
in favor of	reason for
in return for	technique for
instead of	the point of

1. The noun + preposition combinations in the box above are among the most commonly used ones.

*We're not sure of her reason for leaving.*

*It was a problem because she was in charge of organizing the meeting.*

*She probably wanted more money in return for working extra hours.*

2. All the noun + preposition combinations in the box above may be followed by a possessive form + gerund, except:

*difficulty in*      *He has difficulty in understanding the directions.*

*in charge of*      *Who is in charge of looking after the baby?*

*in danger of*      *The building's in danger of falling.*

*technique for*      *I can't figure out the technique for hitting the ball.*

**Exercise 18** ■ ■ Complete the sentences.

- As they were driving to the mountains, Sue told Bob to slow down because she did not see the need for \_\_\_\_\_.
- She also warned him that they were in danger of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Because the road was clear, Bob said he did not see the point of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Sue reminded him that in addition to \_\_\_\_\_, they could get a ticket.
- When Bob saw a police car in his rear-view mirror, he was suddenly in favor of \_\_\_\_\_.
- It was too late. After the police officer had checked Bob's license, he asked him if he had difficulty in \_\_\_\_\_.
- The officer sarcastically asked if he had an interest in \_\_\_\_\_.
- The officer also reminded Bob that as an officer of the law, he was in charge of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Surprisingly, instead of \_\_\_\_\_ the police officer told Bob to report to the police station every Wednesday night for safe driving lessons.
- Sue mentioned that because of his poor driving record, Bob really needed to review the techniques for \_\_\_\_\_.

**Exercise 19** ■ ■ Complete the paragraphs, using the correct preposition and an appropriate gerund. Use the gerund form of the verbs in the box, and try to use a different gerund for each blank.

ask	contact	have	look for	serve
assist	correct	help	mug	solve
be	do	improve	rear up	spend
bring up	enforce	insure	reside	use
change	fight	keep	rob	wait
combat	find	live	see	walk

Few would deny that the quality of life has changed in many big American cities. Many people can remember a time when it was very safe to walk to the corner store after dark; however, today they are afraid \_\_\_\_\_ alone. Store owners



find that they are always in danger \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> robbed. Some of them have been threatened in the course \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> their customers. Many people agree that a big city is no longer suitable for \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup> children.

People who live in the big cities are concerned \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> these conditions. They say that the city governments do not really seem interested \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup> solutions to the problems. On the other hand, the city officials maintain that they are incapable \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup> very much without money from the state and national governments. The mayors of the big urban areas admit that they, too, are worried \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup> the quality of life in their cities. The majority of citizens believe that their police forces have not been good \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup> law and order. Everyone feels that a good police force is essential \_\_\_\_\_<sup>10</sup> a safe environment.

The citizens in these areas are also tired \_\_\_\_\_<sup>11</sup> such high taxes. Again they complain that the city and state governments are responsible for not correctly \_\_\_\_\_<sup>12</sup> the money available to them. Violence and high taxes are only two of the problems that city dwellers face. Many Americans who move to the big cities from small towns have been used \_\_\_\_\_<sup>13</sup> in an atmosphere that is friendly and quiet; therefore, they are not accustomed \_\_\_\_\_<sup>14</sup> in an environment that is cold and impersonal. No American is proud \_\_\_\_\_<sup>15</sup> about these conditions, and all agree that there is a need \_\_\_\_\_<sup>16</sup> the situation. Everyone feels that the problems are very serious, but no one seems to know the best technique \_\_\_\_\_<sup>17</sup> these problems. Some officials are in favor \_\_\_\_\_<sup>18</sup> the law enforcement officials of certain European cities for advice.

While it is true that many European cities, as well as others around the world, have some of the same problems, it is also true that they seem to have found successful solutions to many of them.

### Exercise 20

Read the headlines. Then, with another student, discuss possible answers to the questions. In some answers, you may need a possessive before the gerund/gerund phrase.

#### STRIKE ENDS

##### Mayor's Talks with Teachers Successful

1. What did the mayor succeed in doing?
2. What did the mayor probably concentrate on during the talks?
3. What did students' parents probably disapprove of?
4. What are teachers looking forward to?

#### NATIONALS LOSE FINAL GAME, 3-0

##### COACH BLUM FIRED

5. What did the owner of the team blame the coach for?
6. What will fans never forgive one of the players for?
7. What did the players object to?
8. What do the Nationals need to concentrate on for next year?

#### PROTEST TURNS VIOLENT

##### 10 ARRESTS MADE

9. What had the protesters planned on?
10. What did the police warn protesters about?
11. What did the police prevent the protesters from doing?
12. What did the protesters insist on?

## Practice Exam

### SECTION 1

Identify each underlined gerund phrase according to its function in the sentence.

Subject = S

Object = O

Appositive = A

Subject complement = SC

Object of preposition = OP

1. Having a summer job is the only way many students can pay for their college tuition.
2. When my father was in college, his favorite summer job was working in a restaurant.



- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. He has often said that he didn't mind serving the customers, but he  
\_\_\_\_\_ disliked removing the dirty dishes from the tables.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. After only two weeks at one restaurant, however, he was fired for  
\_\_\_\_\_ eating too much on the job.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. A waiter doesn't make a large salary, but being polite to customers can  
\_\_\_\_\_ result in getting big tips.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The best part of his job was waiting on attractive girls.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. My father and mother often recall meeting each other for the first time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. My mother's job, working as a cashier, was in the same restaurant.

## SECTION 2

Use each of the following verbs in a short sentence.

Examples: admit My father admitted eating on the job.  
agree After the manager had spoken to him, he agreed to stop.

1. appear \_\_\_\_\_
2. avoid \_\_\_\_\_
3. can't help \_\_\_\_\_
4. consider \_\_\_\_\_
5. choose \_\_\_\_\_
6. consent \_\_\_\_\_
7. deny \_\_\_\_\_
8. discuss \_\_\_\_\_
9. finish \_\_\_\_\_
10. forget \_\_\_\_\_
11. miss \_\_\_\_\_
12. offer \_\_\_\_\_
13. postpone \_\_\_\_\_
14. practice \_\_\_\_\_
15. refuse \_\_\_\_\_

16. resent \_\_\_\_\_
17. seem \_\_\_\_\_
18. suggest \_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION 3

Complete each sentence, using the correct preposition followed by a gerund phrase.

1. Most employers do not approve \_\_\_\_\_
2. Last week, two secretaries were arguing \_\_\_\_\_
3. When interviewing for a job, I have never believed \_\_\_\_\_
4. In a noisy office, it is difficult to concentrate \_\_\_\_\_
5. I have often dreamed \_\_\_\_\_
6. Al worked in a dentist's office last summer, and he will never forget \_\_\_\_\_
7. Last summer, I had two good job offers, and I had a lot of difficult \_\_\_\_\_
8. I finally made up my mind in the course \_\_\_\_\_
9. Next summer, I am looking forward \_\_\_\_\_
10. Since I have always been a good employee, I have never worried \_\_\_\_\_
11. Some people are lazy, but most people devote \_\_\_\_\_
12. Understanding the rules in an office is essential \_\_\_\_\_
13. The manager of an office is responsible \_\_\_\_\_
14. Since a five-day workweek is very long, most employees would be in favor \_\_\_\_\_