

A Gerund is that particular form of the verb which ends in 'ing' and has the effect of a noun and a verb. they are also known as 'verbal noun' or 'verb-noun'.

Since both infinitive and gerund have the force of a noun and a verb, they have similar uses. Hence, in majority of the sentences, either of them can be used without a special difference in meaning. For instance;

*Teach me to drive.* or

*Teach me driving.*

Let us first understand a gerund, consider the following example;

*Reading* is her favorite pastime. (Here the word 'reading' is formed by the verb 'read' and 'ing')

Gerunds, like infinitives are used as nouns, while still retaining the power that a verb has of governing another noun or pronoun.

**Compound Gerund:** are formed by placing a past participle after the Gerunds of 'have' and 'be'. For instance;

I heard of her *having gained* a prize.

She is *desirous* of being praised.

### Difference between Past participle and Gerund:

Since both Past Participle and the Gerund end with 'ing', it is essential to distinguish between them. The Past Participle has the force of an Adjective and a Verb, while a Gerund has the force of a noun and a verb.

Example of Gerund: - *He is fond of playing cricket.*

Example of Past Participle: - *Playing cricket, he gained health.*

### Uses of Gerund:

A gerund is a verbal noun, hence it may be used in the following five major ways:

1. Use of Gerund as the **subject of a verb**. Consider the following example;

*Seeing* is believing.

*Hunting* tiger is not allowed in this country.

2. A Gerund is used as the **object of a transitive verb**. Such as the following instance;

Stop *crying*.

I like *reading* prose.

She contemplated *marrying* her cousin.

3. The Gerund is used as the **object of a preposition**, as shown in the following examples below;



I am tired of *playing*.

She is fond of *swimming*.

She was punished for *telling* a lie.

I have an aversion to *skating*.

We were prevented from *seeing* the patient.

4. A Gerund is also used as a **complement to a verb**, to explain more about the verb. For instance;

What I most detest is *smoking*.

5. The Gerund is used **absolutely**, as explained in the following example:



*Playing* cards being her aversion, we did not play poker.

### Rules for Gerunds:

The noun or pronoun preceding Gerund should always be in the Possessive case. For example;

My teacher got angry on my *reading* late in class.

He left for London without my *knowing*.

There are some verbs which are directly followed by a gerund. These are - avoid, escape, defer, detest, dislike, enjoy, finish, resist, mind, risk, resent, mind, practice, etc. Study the following examples carefully to understand this rule.

I could not resist *laughing* at his silly acrobats.

We won't *escape paying* income tax.

Have you *finished writing* the book?