

## Gerunds and Gerund Phrases

A gerund is one of three types of a verbal/verbal phrase, in which a word that is typically a verb is acting as a different part of speech. In this case, a gerund is a verb form that ends in *-ing* that is used as a noun.

Ex. Skiing down that slope was fun.

Dad's favorite pastime is fishing for trout and bass.

We enjoyed hiking in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

Please sweep the sidewalk after mowing the yard.

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

Ex. Having a part-time job may interfere with my schoolwork.

The townspeople heard the loud clanging of the bell.

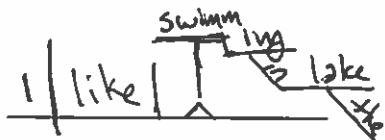
We crossed the stream by stepping carefully from rock to rock.

A really helpful tip to identify a gerund (as opposed to a normal verb or a present participle) is if you can replace the gerund or the gerund phrase with the pronoun "it" and the sentence would still functionally work.

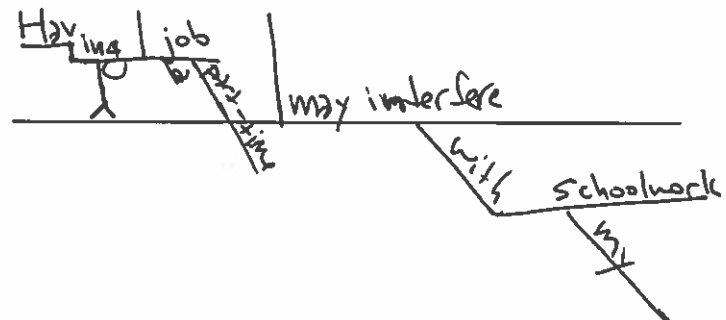
### Diagramming gerunds and gerund phrases

These look more odd than any other diagrammed part of speech. The gerund itself will go on a sort of "step," in which the main part of the word is on the top "step" and the *-ing* ending goes on the lower "step," and the whole thing is raised on a platform that connects to the main diagram based on where the noun would normally fall in the sentence. The rest of the gerund phrase either complements (like an object) or modifies (like an adjective/adverb) and is handled as such.

I like swimming in the lake.



Having a part-time job may interfere with my schoolwork.



## Gerunds and Gerund Phrases

Directions: Choose **eight** of the following sentences to diagram on a separate sheet of paper. Every word in the sentence should appear in your diagram. Below the sentences you'll see a ranking of which sentences are easy, medium, and hard, in order to help you choose which ones to do.

1. I preferred finishing the job by myself.
2. Putting a coat of wax on it protects the surface.
3. We always dreamed about going to Hawaii.
4. Putting my ideas on paper helped me.
5. The injunction restrained them from picketing the site.
6. Getting detailed factual information always strengthens your case.
7. The staff had anticipated receiving a raise in January.
8. Getting their cooperation in this matter was not easy.
9. Coming in first exceeded their wildest expectations.
10. Leon often regretted picking a fight with all those marines.
11. They wondered about reporting the strange call.
12. His decision, selling Park Place to Garrick, was a big mistake.
13. Don't bother about returning it until the end of the semester.
14. Lowering the interest rate usually stimulates the economy.
15. He muttered something about stealing the Maltese Falcon.
16. His plan, selling iceboxes to Eskimos, was not well received by the consumers.
17. Excluding him from starting a new business in the area was a good idea.

Easy: 5, 6, 11, 14, 15

Fairly Easy: 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10

Fairly Hard: 12

Hard: 13, 16, 17