

Gerunds

Common Verbs Followed by Gerunds

A gerund is a noun formed by taking a verb and adding the suffix “-ing.” The gerund form of “give,” for example, is “giving.” Gerunds are used as the objects of certain verbs.

Example 1: I **enjoy playing** tennis → **INCORRECT:** I enjoy to play tennis.

The verb *enjoy* is followed by a gerund (*playing*).

Enjoy cannot be followed by an infinitive.

Example 2: Joe **quit smoking**. or Joe **gave up smoking**.

Both sentences have the same meaning.

Some phrasal verbs, such as *give up*, are followed by gerunds.

Verb + gerund

Postpone (put off)	Enjoy	Stop
Quit (give up)	Mind	Consider (think about)
Avoid	Mention	Keep (keep on)
Delay	Suggest	Discuss
Appreciate	Finish (get through)	

Go + Gerund

Go is followed by a gerund in certain idiomatic expressions to express, for the most part, recreational activities.

Go sailing	Go sightseeing	Go dancing
Go bowling	Go swimming	Go camping
Go hiking	Go golfing	Go shopping

Prepositions Combinations followed by Gerunds

VERB + PREPOSITION + GERUND

1. Example: I apologize for eating the last cookie.
→ Verb + **for doing** (something)
 - *blame* (someone) - *forgive* (someone) - *have an excuse*
 - *have a reason* - *be responsible* - *thank* (someone)
2. Example: He was accused of stealing her bracelet.
→ Verb + **of doing** (something)
 - *be capable* - *for the purpose* - *be guilty* - *be tired*
 - *instead* - *take advantage* - *take care*
3. Example: I look forward to spending time with my grandmother.
→ Verb + **to doing** (something)
 - *be accustomed* - *in addition* - *be committed* - *be devoted*
 - *object* - *be opposed* - *be used*
4. Example: I often talk about moving to a different city.
→ Verb + **about / of doing** (something)
 - *complain* - *dream* - *think*
5. Example: I am interested in traveling to South America.
→ Verb + **in doing** (something)
 - *Believe* - *participate* - *succeed*
6. Example: I stopped him from making a silly mistake.
→ Verb + **from doing** (something)
 - *keep* (someone) - *prevent* (someone) - *prohibit* (someone)
7. Example: I am worried about not passing my driving test.
→ Verb + **about doing** (something)
 - *be excited*
8. Example: I insist on paying the bill.
→ Verb + **on doing** (something)

Practice Exercise

Exercise 1

- 1) He told a really funny joke. We couldn't stop _____.
- 2) Would you mind _____ the windows please?
- 3) I enjoy _____ long walks in the fall.
- 4) I am thinking about _____ a dinner party.

Exercise 2

- 1) I have no excuse _____ (be) _____ late.
- 2) Dianne is always complaining _____ (have) _____ a headache.
- 3) Thank you _____ (help) _____ me carry my suitcases.
- 4) Andrea isn't interested _____ (look) _____ for a new job.
- 5) The rain prevented us _____ (complete) _____ the work.

Answers

Exercise 1: laughing; opening; taking; having

Exercise 2: for being; about having; for helping; in looking; from completing

Source: Azar, B. (1999). *Understanding and Using English Grammar* (3rd ed.). Longman Press.