

## Gerunds as simple nouns

Many words which were originally gerunds are now treated as simple nouns. Examples are: *parting*, *lightning*, *helping*, *filling*, *painting* etc. Most of these words take articles before them and form plurals with -s.

Partings are always painful.

The lightning struck the building.

His paintings are very beautiful.

He has had three fillings.

Gerunds are also used in the formation of some compound words. Examples are:

Walking-stick, frying-pan, writing-table, looking-glass, sleeping-bag etc.

Substituting a gerund for an infinitive

After some verbs either an -ing form or an infinitive can be used. These include the following:

*Advise, allow, begin, continue, forbid, forget, go, hate, hear, intend, like, love, permit, prefer, propose, regret, remember, see, start, stop, try, wait and watch.*

I hate to work on Sundays.

I hate working on Sundays.

To attack is better than to wait indefinitely.

Attacking is better than waiting indefinitely.

After certain adjectives and verbs, a preposition + gerund is used instead of an infinitive. Examples are: think, despair, fond, confident, prevent, abstain, refrain, prohibit etc.

I am thinking of writing a novel. (NOT I am thinking to write a novel. ) (NOT I am thinking of to write a novel.)

I despair of reforming that fellow.

The students abstained from attending classes.

We were prohibited from entering the premises.

She is fond of dancing.

We are confident of winning the first prize.

We must refrain from dealing with such people.

He is keen on building a career in research.