

What are gerunds?

Read the following sentence:

Singing is his hobby.

Here singing is a verb ending in -ing. At the same time it is the subject of the verb is, and hence does function as a noun. Such a form of the verb ending in -ing and used as a noun is called a gerund.

Forms of the gerund

The gerund has different forms.

I like reading. (Present)

Who doesn't love being looked at? (Present passive)

Having slept for ten hours, I felt great. (Present perfect)

We are happy about having been invited. (Present perfect, passive)

Uses of the gerund

As the subject of a verb

Smoking is injurious to health.

Trespassing is prohibited.

Reading is his favorite activity.

As subject complement

My mistake was trusting my boyfriend.

My favorite activity is reading.

As the object of a verb

I hate packing.

He loves driving fast cars.

I enjoy swimming in the sea.

As the object of a preposition

I am thinking of writing a novel.

He is fond of seeing pictures.

The boy was punished for lying.

What are gerunds?

He was arrested for stealing a policeman's helmet.

In apposition to a noun

His crime, stealing his master's watch, was considered serious.

Our goal, collecting a million dollars for the project, can't be fulfilled easily.