

GRAMMAR

GERUND

The gerund is an -ing form of the verb. It can be used in place of a **noun**, though it can, like a **verb**, take an object or an adverbial modifier.

They went on discussing the project enthusiastically.

➔ Forms

	Active	Passive
Present	doing	being done
Perfect	having done	having been done

➔ I. Uses of the Gerund

1. The use of the present form

The present (non-perfect) gerund is the most common form of the gerund.

*She enjoyed **walking** along the beach.* *Она очень любила гулять / прогулки вдоль моря.*

*On **seeing** Jane he froze.* *Увидев Джейн, он остановился как вкопанный.*

*He remembered **being introduced** to the consul.* *Он помнил, что его представили консулу.*

2. The use of the perfect form

The perfect gerund can express an action prior to that of the finite verb (глагол в личной форме).

He now denies that he has ever spoken to the woman. → *He now denies ever **having spoken** to the woman.*

Laura recalled that she had been taken to Disneyland when she was a child. → *Laura recalled **having been taken** to Disneyland when she was a child.*

However, the present form of the gerund is commonly used when you are referring to a past action.

*She could not forgive him for **saying** these nasty things to her.*

*The old lady thanked me for **helping** her across the road.*

*He remembers **being taken** to the Louvre as a small child.*

3. Active gerund with a passive meaning

1. The meaning of the active gerund after the verbs **need, want, deserve** can be compared to that of the passive infinitive.

*The carpet needs **to be cleaned**.* = *The carpet needs / wants **cleaning**.*

*The gunmen deserve **to be locked up**.* = *The gunmen deserve **locking up**.*

2. You can use the active gerund after the adjective **worth** to tell that something is useful or helpful.

*The book is (well) **worth reading**.* (= if you read it you'll find the book very useful.)

Exercise 1. Paraphrase the sentences using the gerund.

1. Jacobson admitted that he had given false information.
2. Both companies denied that they had discharged any toxic waste.
3. We anticipated that we would meet a certain amount of resistance to our plan.
4. I dislike it when I'm told what to do.
5. I clearly remember that I posted your letters.

Exercise 2. Open the brackets using a suitable form of the gerund.

1. Most celebrities have as much interest in (write) about as newspapers have in (fill) their pages.
2. Julia ought to have guessed that she couldn't go far in London without (recognize).
3. She couldn't hide her disappointment at (leave out) of the team.
4. There is no point in (give) him a false impression.
5. Success is (get) what you want. Happiness is (like) what you get.

Exercise 3. Paraphrase the sentences using the gerund.

1. The room needs to be brightened up a bit.
2. One or two points about this report need to be discussed.
3. The youngster deserves to be praised.
4. The boy has behaved so badly that he deserves to be punished.
5. Are there any more problems that need to be sorted out?

Exercise 4. Open the brackets using the gerund.

1. Niagra Falls is worth (see). It is one of the most spectacular sights in the world.
2. There's a lot of advice in the book on baby care. Most of it is worth (take).
3. It's stupid of you not to see that the car is not worth (repair).
4. That tennis racket wasn't worth (buy). I paid good money for it and it broke the first time I used it.
5. Bob is not worth (help). In less than three years he has squandered the entire family fortune.

Pattern 1

there's no + telling / knowing / denying / mistaking / escaping

there's no telling / knowing = it's impossible to tell / to know

there's no denying / mistaking / escaping = it's certain (that...)

Exercise 5. Translate the sentences into Russian. Pay attention to the *there in no + Gerund* pattern.

Model: There is no mistaking what he is aiming at. Нельзя не понять, чего он добивается.

1. **There is no denying** that this will be a serious blow to the government.
2. **There is no telling** what future will hold for her.
3. **There is no escaping** the fact that we won't be able to complete these orders without extra staff.
4. **There is no knowing** what he'll do if he finds out about this.
5. **There is no telling** what will happen if she meets him while she's in this bad temper.

Pattern 2

It's no good (use)...

There is no point in...

What's the good (use) of...?

What's the point in (of)...?

I can't see any point in...

It's pointless... / (to -infinitive)

Exercise 6. Comment on the following situations using one of the phrases from the box.

Model: The train is obviously gone. (wait) → It's no good waiting.

1. There were armed guards everywhere. (try to escape)
2. These old ornaments are of little value. (put them up for auction)
3. Ralph was an extremely difficult man who never really got on well with anybody. (try to make friends with him)
4. The curriculum needs comprehensive revision. (make minor changes)
5. You'll be well provided for no matter what happens. (worry)

1. Gerund as subject

Exercise 7. Complete the sentences using the gerund as subject.

Model: _____ was extremely difficult. → Working full-time and taking a course was extremely difficult. _____ has been a rewarding experience. → For me, studying Spanish has been a rewarding experience.

1. _____ will improve my chances of promotion at work.
2. _____ was one of her greatest satisfactions.
3. _____ is not my idea of fun.
4. _____ was very tiring.
5. _____ is intellectually stimulating.

2. Gerund as adverbial modifier

by	How did you improve your English? I improved my English by listening to the radio.
without	He took my bike without asking permission.
in (= when or because of)	In refusing to work abroad she missed an excellent job opportunity.
on (<i>fm!</i>) (= immediately after)	On receiving their letter he decided to make a donation to help their campaign.

Exercise 8. Fill in the gaps with **by, without, on, in**.

1. He couldn't pass a mirror ___ looking into it.
2. ___ arriving in Montpellier I found a job as an English teacher.
3. ___ criticizing the boss he risked losing his job.
4. The government has responded to public pressure ___ abolishing the new tax.
5. ___ waiting for her answer, he stood up and walked away

3. Gerund as direct object

admit
anticipate
appreciate
avoid
can't help

enjoy
excuse
feel like
finish
forgive

miss
postpone
prevent
put off
resent

can't stand
consider
delay
deny
dislike

give up
imagine
keep on
mention
mind (*interrogative and negative*)

resist
risk
suggest

Notes: 1. The gerund can also be used as direct object after the adjectives **worth** and **busy**.

e.g. *The matter is **not worth** arguing about.*

*The teacher was **busy** marking his students' papers.*

2. The verbs **appreciate** and **excuse** are always followed by the possessive before the gerund.

e.g. *Excuse **my** saying this.*

*I appreciate **your** remembering my birthday.*

Exercise 9. Combine the sentences using the gerund. Translate them into Russian.

Model: I laughed when I saw his haircut. I couldn't help it.

→ I couldn't help laughing when I saw his haircut.

Я не мог удержаться от смеха, когда увидел, как его подстригли.

1. I have to pay taxes for healthcare and then have to pay again when I am ill. I resent this.
2. Bob can no longer afford to go to Nice for holiday. He misses this.
3. I have to get up early in the morning. I dislike that.
4. My daughter always buys a thing or two in a duty-free shop. She can't resist this.
5. His assistant made telephone calls throughout the morning. She was busy with that.

4. Gerundial complex as object and subject

The gerund can have its own subject different from the subject of the sentence and form a gerundial complex.

I appreciate your helping me.

1. The first element of the gerundial complex used as **object** can be a noun or pronoun referring to people. In this case, there is a choice between two forms: formal and informal.

Formal: *I remember Jim's / the boy's / his helping me.*

Informal: *I remember Jim / the boy / him helping me.*

If the noun or pronoun refers to things, only one form is possible.

I remember the letter / its being delivered promptly.

2. If the gerundial complex is the **subject of the sentence**, only the possessive form is used with reference to people.

Jim's / the boy's / his helping me was very timely.

3. Note the translation:

*He insisted on **both students apologising.***

Он настоял на том, чтобы оба студента извинились.

His failing Maths was not unexpected.

То, что он провалился на экзамене по математике, не было неожиданностью (его провал ... не был неожиданным).

Exercise 10. Open the brackets using the gerundial complex.

1. I appreciate (you, give) me so much of your time.
2. It's no good (you, fly) in a temper. You've just got to listen.
3. Do you mind (I, leave) the light on?
4. I can't imagine (anyone, want) to see this play three times.
5. (The boy, tell a lie) upset everyone.
6. Joe remembers (his uncle, complain) of bad headaches.
7. I can't imagine (my husband, grumble about) clothes – he doesn't care what he wears.
8. I can't stand (he, tell) me what to do.
9. Millions of viewers remember (Prince Charles and his lovely wife, leave) St. Paul's Cathedral on July 29, 1981.
10. Diana resented (this photograph, publish) without her approval.

5. Gerund as prepositional object

The most common verbs followed by the gerund:

aim at	look forward to	accuse smb of
apologise (to smb) for	object to	blame smb for
complain about	persist in	congratulate smb on
count on	put up with	discourage smb from
(dis)approve of	rely on	forgive smb for
dream of	succeed in	prevent smb from
forget about	think of / about	suspect smb of
insist on	worry about	threaten smb with

Exercise 11. Open the brackets using the gerund. Use prepositions.

Model: I am looking forward ___ (see) you tonight.

→ I am looking forward to seeing you tonight.

1. She often complains ___ (not feel) appreciated at work.
2. Her parents insisted ___ (speak) to the headmistress.
3. Are you accusing me ___ (lie)?
4. Pilcher was suspected ___ (be) a spy.
5. If you persist ___ (cause trouble), the company may be forced to dismiss you.
6. Her failure in the very first interview may discourage her ___ (apply) to other universities.
7. Jack apologised ___ (be) late saying he had been held up in a traffic jam.

8. I disapprove ____ (smoke) in public places.
9. She never forgave him ____ (ruin) her holiday.
10. Stella finally succeeded ____ (pass) her driving test.
11. He objects ____ (speak) to like that.
12. His disability prevented him ____ (walk).
13. She was looking forward ____ (see) the grandchildren again.
14. I really can't approve ____ (be) criticized in public.
15. I congratulated her ____ (graduate) the university.

Exercise 12. Translate into English.

1. Экзаменатор заподозрил мальчика в том, что он пытался списывать.
2. Немногие люди мирятся с тем, чтобы с ними обращались неуважительно.
3. Сын извинился за то, что был груб с ней и пообещал быть более сдержанным.
4. Не могу винить тебя за то, что ты не хочешь участвовать в этом проекте, но вынужден настаивать на том, чтобы ты хотя бы помогла нам с расчетами.
5. Он мечтал поступить в университет, но не прилагал к этому больших усилий.
6. Мать пыталась отговорить Диану от брака с Чарльзом.
7. Отсутствие университетского образования не помешало Трумэну стать президентом.
8. В статье журналист обвинил компанию в том, что она вводит в заблуждение общественность.
9. Не рассчитывайте на то, что я поддержу ваше предложение.
10. Он упорно продолжает вкладывать деньги в это безнадежное предприятие.

6. Gerund as prepositional object after adjectives

angry at	famous for	responsible for
annoyed at	fond of	sorry about
ashamed of	good at	sure of / about
concerned about	grateful (to smb) for	surprised at
content with	(in)capable of	tired of
delighted at	interested in	(to be / get) used to
excited about	(dis)pleased about	worried about

Exercise 13. Complete the sentences using the gerund. Use prepositions.

Model: He was denied admittance. He was angry... → He was angry at being denied admittance.

1. Charlotte found me asleep instead of working. Charlotte was angry... .
2. After two years of school, he still couldn't read. I am surprised... .
3. Bob asked Monica to pay all the expenses. He should be ashamed... .
4. We couldn't see anything from the back row of the theater. We were annoyed... .
5. The passengers have been kept waiting. The passengers are tired... .
6. Tony failed the exam in microeconomics. His friends are concerned... .
7. The little girl interrupted her father all the time. He felt displeased... .
8. We answered all of the exam questions correctly. The professor was pleased... .
9. Chris was elected president of the association. He was content... .
10. Tom's mother never asks awkward questions. Tom is grateful to his mother... .
11. His son passed his driving test. John was excited
12. Allen was not treated with much respect. He was not used
13. He didn't go to Rome during his travels. He was sorry
14. He can speak in public very confidently. I think he is capable of... .
15. I can't memorize all Spanish words in my vocabulary lists. I think I am incapable of... .

Exercise 14. Translate into English.

1. Мальчик был в восторге от того, что ему доверили такое важное дело.
2. Она была рассержена тем, что на нее никто не обратил внимания; она привыкла всегда быть в центре (to be the focus) всеобщего внимания.
3. Филипп был раздосадован тем, что ему пришлось выполнить приказание королевы.
4. Американские учителя озабочены тем, что их ученики отстают от своих сверстников в Европе по многим предметам.
5. Эта школа известна тем, что дает возможность (to give a passport to) всем выпускникам поступить в самые престижные университеты.
6. Он был очень доволен тем, что его сын занял первое место на шахматном турнире.
7. Он умудрялся ловко списывать на экзаменах – никто этого не замечал.
8. Вы лично отвечаете за повышение успеваемости и улучшение дисциплины в вашей школе.
9. Многие студенты обеспокоены (необходимостью) найти работу еще до окончания учебы.
10. Похоже, учитель не привык к тому, чтобы его перебивали.

7. Gerund as attribute after nouns

the custom of	interest in
to have difficulty in	to take the precaution of
excuse for	point in
(all) in favour of	the prospect of
for fear of	reason for
in the habit of	to run the risk of
to see little (no) harm in	the thought of
the idea of	the way of

Exercise 15. Open the brackets using the gerund or gerundial complex with a suitable preposition.

Model: He was in the habit _____ (jog) in the morning. → He was in the habit of jogging in the morning.

1. Anyone travelling without a passport runs the risk ____ (be) arrested.
2. He doesn't like the prospect ____ (have) to live alone.
3. She didn't see any harm ____ (let) the children stay up late on Saturday nights.
4. His overprotective wife took the precaution ____ (burn) all the letters addressed to him.
5. There's no interest ____ (go) to a concert when you don't understand music.
6. What's your reason ____ (want) to leave the country?
7. The custom ____ (kiss) people under the mistletoe is ancient, dating back to pre-Christian times.
8. The idea ____ (go) into the abandoned house alone horrified her.
9. They were speaking in a whisper for fear ____ (wake up) the sleeping child.
10. Do you have any excuse ____ (be) late for classes two days in a row?
11. What was the point ____ (work) for a degree when there were no jobs available?
12. I'm all in favour ____ (people, go out) and (enjoy) themselves as long as they don't disturb other people.
13. She could not bear the thought ____ (her son, waste) his life over her.
14. There is a risk ____ (another accident, happen) in the fog.
15. She had great difficulty ____ (understand) his heavily accented English.

Exercise 16. Translate into English.

1. Идея об отмене (to abandon) вступительных экзаменов кажется мне неудачной.
2. У него была привычка перебивать других, не дослушав до конца.
3. Традиция отмечать день Благодарения восходит (to go back to) к семнадцатому веку.
4. Я всецело за то, чтобы он заработал деньги, чтобы оплатить свое обучение в университете.
5. Поскольку Саймон хорошо знал предмет, у него не возникло трудностей со сдачей экзамена.
6. В чем причина ее отказа поехать с нами?
7. Какой смысл откладывать на черный день, если деньги могут девальвироваться (to be devalued)?
8. Он не хочет подвергать себя риску быть исключенным из университета и никогда не пропускает занятия.
9. Я не вижу никакого вреда в том, что подростки работают во время летних каникул.
10. Лучший способ избежать кровопролития (bloodshed) и конфликтов – относиться ко всему (to take things) с иронией. /Robert Cooper, a British diplomat/