

PATTERNS & STRUCTURES WITH GERUND

pattern 1

Active Gerund with a passive meaning

need - want - deserve - worth

The carpet needs cleaning. = The carpet needs to be cleaned.

The room wants cleaning. = The room wants to be cleaned.

The book is worth reading.

Exercise:

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

pattern 2

It's no good

It's no use

There is no point in

What's the good of

What's the use of

What's the point in (of)

I can't see any point in

doing

It's pointless doing = It's pointless to do

Exercise:

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)

pattern 3

by
without
in (when/because of)
on (immediately after) } **doing**

I improved my English **by listening** to the radio.

He took my bike **without asking** permission.

In refusing to work abroad she missed an excellent opportunity.

On receiving the letter he decided to join the project.

Exercise:

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

pattern 4

- after certain verbs/ nouns/ adjectives
- **appreciate** + possessive + **doing**
- **excuse**
 - my
 - his
 - her
 - their
 - our

Excuse my saying this.

I appreciate your remembering my birthday.

- **busy + doing = busy with + noun**

He was busy doing Maths = He was busy with Maths.

Exercise:

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

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

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.

pattern 5

GERUNDIAL COMPLEX

VERB + **NOUN/PRONOUN** + doing

I appreciate **your helping** me.

formal: possessive

I remember **Jim's** helping me.

I remember **the boy's** helping me.

I remember **his** helping me.

informal: objective

I remember **Jim** helping me.

I remember **the boy** helping me.

I remember **him** helping me.

!!!NB

- *with things -- only objective*

I remember the letter being delivered.

- *if Gerundial Complex is the subject, with people -- only possessive*

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

Exercise:

1. I appreciate (you, give) me so much of your time.
2. Do you mind (I, leave) the light on?
3. Joe remembers (his uncle, complain) of bad headaches.
4. I can't stand (he, tell) me what to do.
5. (The boy, tell a lie) upset everyone.

pattern 6

• verb + preposition + doing

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

doing

Exercise:

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. 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.

pattern 7

- **adjective + preposition + doing**

angry at

annoyed at

ashamed of

concerned about

content with

delighted at

excited about

famous for

fond of

good at

grateful for

interested in

(in)capable of

(dis)pleased about

responsible for

sorry about

sure of (about)

surprised at

tired of

be used to

get used to

worried about

doing

Exercise:

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... .

pattern 8

- **noun + preposition + doing**

the custom of

have difficulty in

in the habit of

run the risk of

the thought of

take the precaution of

see little (no) harm in

the prospect of

interest in

the idea of

point in

excuse for

reason for

the way of

in favour of

for fear of

doing

Exercise:

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?