

**21.1**

# Gerunds and Gerund Phrases (Gerunds; Verb, Participle, or Gerund?) • Practice 1

**Gerunds** A gerund is a form of a verb that acts as a noun.

GERUNDS
<i>Subject:</i> Running has become very popular. <i>Direct Object:</i> Unfortunately, Susan adored singing. <i>Indirect Object:</i> Uncle Lew gave skiing a single try. <i>Predicate Nominative:</i> Her favorite activity was riding. <i>Object of a Preposition:</i> Steve was not very fond of raking. <i>Appositive:</i> Her hobby, shopping, tires me out.

**Verb, Participle, or Gerund?** Words ending in *-ing* that act as nouns are gerunds. They do not have helping verbs, nor do they act as adjectives.

Verb	Participle	Gerund
Who is cooking tonight?	Cooking smells filled the house.	Paul enjoys cooking

**Exercise 1** **Recognizing Gerunds.** Underline the gerund in each sentence. Then write whether each one is used as a *subject*, *direct object*, *indirect object*, *predicate nominative*, *object of a preposition*, or *appositive* on each line to the right.

**EXAMPLE:** Bill improved by practicing. object of a preposition

1. Winning is less important than sportsmanship. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Since childhood, Tony has shown a love of learning. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The doctor recommended exercise instead of dieting. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Alice's knitting is quite remarkable. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Jody won several medals for swimming. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Jogging is a popular form of exercise. \_\_\_\_\_
7. During her free time, Michelle enjoys reading. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Chris turned his hobby, painting, into a profession. \_\_\_\_\_
9. The sound of drilling disturbed our sleep. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Dad's favorite sport is fishing. \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 2** **Distinguishing Between Verbs, Participles and Gerunds.** Write *V*, *P*, or *G* on each line to the right to indicate whether the underlined word in each sentence is a verb, a participle, or a gerund.

**EXAMPLE:** A rolling stone gathers no moss. P

1. Who is pitching today? \_\_\_\_\_
2. He has a strong pitching arm. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Pitching is our weakness. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Her great love is acting. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who is acting in the play? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Portia was her first acting role. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The moving van was late. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Moving is always troublesome. \_\_\_\_\_
9. The Halls are moving away. \_\_\_\_\_
10. I am afraid of flying. \_\_\_\_\_