

Gerunds

16g. A *gerund* is a verb form ending in *-ing* that is used as a noun.

EXAMPLES **Bicycling** is the perfect exercise for me.
Tommy prefers **jogging** to other forms of exercise.
Give **stretching** a try before you begin an activity.

EXERCISE A Underline all the gerunds in the sentences below.

Example 1. When a tropical dry forest is the focus, studying can be a pleasure.

- Exploring enables botanist Mark Olson to find unusual or rare habitats.
- In order to examine some plants, collecting has played an important part in his work.
- The small amounts of rainfall are predictable and make forecasting a dependable science.
- Under these climatic conditions, surviving is not what one would expect from such a wide variety of plant life.
- Whether in Madagascar or Mexico, the thrill of discovering never fades.

EXERCISE B Underline the gerunds in the following sentences. Then, above each gerund, identify its function in the sentence by writing *S* for *subject*, *PN* for *predicate nominative*, *DO* for *direct object*, *IO* for *indirect object*, or *OP* for *object of preposition*.

Example 1. For tomorrow's job market, are the important skills ^{PN}researching and ^{PN}programming?

- Rosa quit dancing for six weeks after she sprained her ankle.
- Carita had to decide between golfing and swimming.
- Taxiing is the airplane's method to move between airport terminal and runway.
- American artisans have kept alive the crafts of tatting and crocheting.
- Darla gave sleeping a high priority after she finished her final exams.
- Isaac did enjoy in-line skating when he had the time.
- After an hour of searching, Bettie had enough information from the Internet for her report.
- Would painting have held his attention longer if he had been able to sell his work?
- The sawing and hammering made so much noise that the baby woke up.
- Exercising is my favorite way to reduce stress.