

THE GERUND PHRASE

A **gerund phrase** consists of a gerund and any modifiers or complements the gerund has. The entire phrase is used as a noun.

A **gerund** is a verb form that always ends in **-ing** and is used as a **noun**. The gerund can be a **subject** (Eating is fun.); **a direct object** (I like eating.); **a predicate nominative** (A fun time is eating.); an appositive (A fun time, eating, takes much time.); **an indirect object** (I give eating too much time.); or **an object of a preposition** (I give much time to eating.)

NOTE:

- Do not confuse a gerund with a present participle used as part of a verb phrase or as an adjective.

Example: He is dancing joyfully in the graduation ceremony.

- Gerunds can be compound. **Example:** Jeff likes hiking and camping.

EXERCISE:

Find the gerund phrase, then identify whether it is used as subject, predicate nominative, direct object, indirect object, appositive, or object of a preposition.

1. During the summer Allen earns money by mowing people’s lawns.

Gerund Phrase: _____ **Used as:** _____

2. My father’s business model is serving customers efficiently and courteously.

Gerund Phrase: _____ **Used as:** _____

3. Recognizing cinema excellence is the goal of the Academy Awards.

Gerund Phrase: _____ **Used as:** _____

4. For my next holiday, I will give visiting Argentina a second thought with my fiancé.

Gerund Phrase: _____ **Used as:** _____

5. My Grandmother always says that I need good eyes for knitting and sewing.

Gerund Phrase: _____ **Used as:** _____

6. Mr. Jones enjoys his work, collecting and repairing old stereos.

Gerund Phrase: _____ **Used as:** _____

7. The slow rocking of the boat made everyone seasick.

Gerund Phrase: _____ **Used as:** _____

8. My Grandfather started collecting stamps as a hobby after the end of WWII.

Gerund Phrase: _____ **Used as:** _____

9. Understanding quantum physics was the most difficult thing at college.

Gerund Phrase: _____ **Used as:** _____

10. My friends devoted the evening of their weekend to preparing a history presentation.

Gerund Phrase: _____ **Used as:** _____

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Answer Key

ANSWERS:

EXERCISE:

	GERUND PHRASE	USED AS
1	mowing people's lawns.	Object of a Preposition
2	serving customers efficiently and courteously.	Predicate Nominative
3	Recognizing cinema excellence	Subject
4	visiting Argentina	Indirect Object
5	knitting and sewing	Object of a Preposition
6	collecting and repairing old stereos.	Appositive
7	The slow rocking of the boat	Subject
8	collecting stamps	Direct Object
9	Understanding quantum physics	Subject
10	preparing a history presentation.	Object of a Preposition