

**High-Intermediate 2**  
**Unit 8: Grammar**  
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## Gerunds

A gerund is a verb form that ends in -ing and functions as a noun. For example, in the sentence “Swimming is fun,” “swimming” is a gerund because it acts as a noun, even though it originates from the verb “to swim.”

Gerunds can play various roles in a sentence:

### **Gerund as the Subject of the Sentence:**

- **Watching soccer games** makes me happy.
- **Swimming** is a popular sport.

### **Gerund as the Object of the Sentence:**

- I love **watching soccer games**.
- George teaches **swimming**.

### **Gerund as the Subject Complement:**

Subject complement is a noun or a noun phrase that follows the verb “to be”.

- My hobby is **watching soccer games**.
- The most popular sport in this city is **swimming**.

### **Gerund as an Appositive:**

An appositive is a noun or noun phrase that sits next to another noun to provide more information or to identify it in a different way.

- My hobby, **watching soccer games**, is an important part of my life.
- The most popular sport in this city, **swimming**, attracts people of all ages.

### **Gerund as the Object of a Preposition:**

- I am interested in **watching soccer games**.
- They are fond of **swimming**.

## Present Participles

When verb+ing functions as an adjective or an adverb, it is no longer called a gerund. We call it the present participle instead.

### **Present Participle as an Adjective:**

- This sport is very **interesting**.
- Tom’s job in this factory is at times very **boring**.

### **Present Participle as an Adverb:**

- **Playing soccer**, Tom broke his leg.
- **Sailing along the Mississippi River on our boat**, we felt quite amused.

**Point:**

Next term at High-Intermediate 3, you will study present participles in detail.

## The Structure of Gerunds

**Simple Gerunds:****Active:** doing sth

- Frightening people is Jack's hobby.

**Passive:** being done

- Nobody likes being frightened.

**Perfect Gerunds:****Active:** Having done sth

- After having frightened his grandpa, Jack ran away.

**Passive:** Having been done

- After having been frightened, Jack's grandpa had a heart attack.

### Formal and Informal Use of Gerunds/Present Participles

**Possessive + Gerund** ⇒ Formal

Examples:

- I remember David's swimming in the river.
- I remember his swimming in the river.

**Possessive Words:** David's, his

**Noun or Object Pronoun + Present Participle** ⇒ Informal

Examples:

- I remember David swimming in the river.
- I remember him swimming in the river.

**Noun:** David

**Object Pronoun:** him

**Source:**

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