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# CHAPTER 30

## *USING A GERUND AS THE SUBJECT OF A SENTENCE*

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Notice the difference between the subjects in these sentences.

*Food* is not expensive.



subject

*Eating* is not expensive.



subject

The word *food* in the first sentence is a noun. *Food* is a class of physical objects. The sentence makes a statement about these physical objects. But sometimes you want to make a statement about an activity. The second sentence makes a statement about eating. The word *eating* is the subject of the sentence. Since the subject of a sentence is usually a noun, the word *eating* in the second sentence plays the role of a noun. However, the word *eating* is the *ing* form of the verb *eat*. When the *ing* form of a verb is used as a noun, it is given a special name: It is called a “gerund.” In the following exercises, you will write sentences that have gerunds as subjects. Consider this sentence.

GERUND burns calories.



subject



verb



object

The above sentence has the word GERUND in the subject position. We will create a gerund from another sentence and then replace the word GERUND with an actual gerund. We can create a gerund from the next sentence.

People swim.

A gerund is created from the verb in this sentence by changing it to its *ing* form. Here is the *ing* form of *swim*.

**Gerund:** swimming

We can now replace the word GERUND with *swimming* in the sentence above.

GERUND burns calories.

Swimming burns calories.

Try this sample exercise.

### SAMPLE EXERCISE

*Instructions:* Create a gerund from the verb in the second sentence. Then rewrite the first sentence with the gerund used as the subject.

GERUND is educational and enjoyable.

People read.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Answer Explanation:*

**Step 1.** A gerund is created from the verb in the second sentence (*read*) by changing it to its *ing* form. The *ing* form of read is *reading*.

**Gerund:** reading

**Step 2.** The gerund is placed in the subject slot of the first sentence.

GERUND is educational and enjoyable.

Reading is educational and enjoyable.

### EXERCISES

*Instructions:* In each exercise, create a gerund from the verb in the second sentence. Then rewrite the first sentence with the gerund used as its subject.

1. GERUND can help a tense person relax.

People laugh.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. GERUND leads to obesity.

People overeat.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. GERUND is a rewarding profession.

People teach.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. GERUND is the foundation of cultural progress.

People write.

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