

-Ing Forms as Nouns

_Ing forms of verbs can be used as nouns. As a result, they can function as subjects and objects of verbs and prepositions. Look at the following -ing forms functioning as the **subject** of the sentence:

Examples: Dancing is a great exercise.

Overeating can be dangerous to your health.

Look at these examples where the -ing forms function as the **object** of the verb:

Examples: My friends and I love dancing on Saturday nights.

We finished studying late last night.

These examples that follow show the -ing form as the **object** of a preposition.

Examples: He thought about staying home.

Instead of going to the movies, we decided to stay home.

Exercises – Working in pairs, use the following gerunds in sentences either as subjects or objects of verbs or prepositions.

1. getting _____

2. living _____

3. having _____

4. swimming _____

5. learning _____

6. cooking _____

7. playing _____

8. asking _____

9. doing _____

10. advertising _____

Exercise – Identify how each gerund in your examples was used. Write Subject, Object of verb, Object of preposition after each number below.

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

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