

GERUNDS

GRAMMAR IN CONTEXT

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

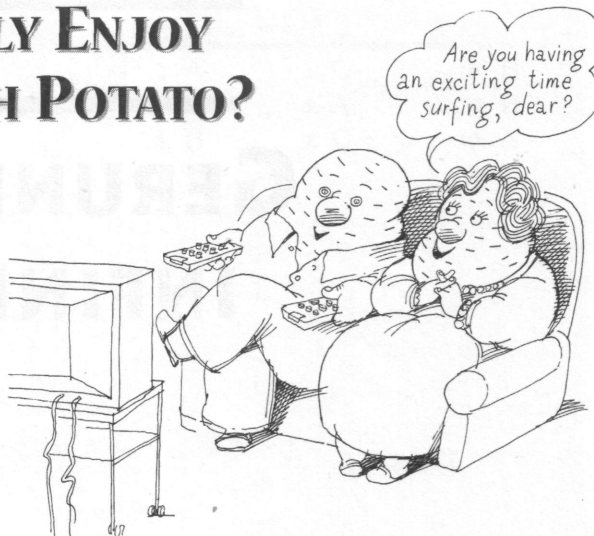
1. What are your favorite hobbies and pastimes?
2. Do you have enough time to pursue the pastimes you really enjoy?
3. Do you think that TV watching is passive, or not?

 Read the article.

DO YOU REALLY ENJOY BEING A COUCH POTATO?

A husband and wife come home from work, exhausted and stressed out. They don't feel like preparing a real dinner, so they pop something in the microwave. Then they sit down on the couch for an evening of being mesmerized by the TV set. Hours later, after having fallen asleep, they wake up and stumble off to bed. Each day they continue to do the same thing: Get up, go to work, come home, grab a bite, then sit down and vegetate in front of the TV set. Does this sound like you? If so, are you satisfied with your existence? Isn't there more to life than being a couch potato?

Some people apparently don't think so. In their recent book *Time for Life*, researchers John Robinson and Geoffrey Godbey state that the average amount of time that people in the United States have to devote to leisure activities is actually increasing. While this may sound unlikely,



Robinson and Godbey claim that Americans now spend almost forty hours a week doing leisure-time activities, and something similar may be true all over the industrialized world. Here's what Robinson and Godbey say are the top five leisure activities among Americans: Watching television, at 15.0 hours a week, is by far the most popular. Number two on the list is socializing—6.7 hours a week. Number three, at 4.4 hours weekly, is home communication. Reading, at 2.8 hours a week, ranks number four. And number five on the list,