

NOTES

1. A **gerund** is a noun made from a verb. To form a gerund, add *-ing* to the base form of a verb and make any necessary spelling changes.

Gerunds perform the same functions as nouns.

Gerunds act as **subjects**.

Gerunds act as **direct objects**.

Gerunds act as **objects of prepositions**.

Gerunds act as **subject complements** (phrases that further describe the subject of the sentence).

Gerunds act as **appositives** (phrases, placed next to a noun, that explain the noun and are equivalent to it).

EXAMPLES

- **Reading**, at 2.8 hours a week, ranks number four. (The gerund *reading* is made by adding *-ing* to the verb *read*.)
- **Watching** television, at 15.0 hours a week, is by far the most popular. (*Watching* is the subject of the verb *is*.)
- Do you really enjoy **being** a couch potato? (*Being* is the direct object of the verb *enjoy*.)
- Participants have to follow the clues by **hiking** in certain sections of the English countryside. (*Hiking* is the object of the preposition *by*.)
- Number two on the list is **socializing**. (*Socializing* explains the subject, *number two on the list*.)
- And number five on the list, **engaging** in hobbies, comes in at 2.7 hours a week. (The appositive *engaging in hobbies* explains and is equivalent to the phrase *number five on the list*.)

2. Gerunds can be used in perfect form (**having** + **past participle**). This form suggests the past in relation to some other time.

- Hours later, after **having fallen** asleep, they wake up and stumble off to bed. (*They fell asleep. Hours later, they woke up and stumbled off to bed.*)

3. Gerunds can occur in passive form with **being** or **getting** + **past participle** or **having been** or **gotten** + **past participle**.

- Then they sit down on the couch for an evening of **being mesmerized** by the TV set.