

4. Use a possessive noun or pronoun before a gerund.

USAGE NOTE: Native speakers often informally use a regular noun or an object pronoun (instead of a possessive) before a gerund or gerund phrase.

- It was not until the 1950s, with **Walt Disney's opening** of the first Disneyland, that roller coasters began to make a comeback.
- They stamp a card that validates **their having completed** that part of the game. (more formal)
- They stamp a card that validates **them having completed** that part of the game. (more informal)

5. **BE CAREFUL!** Remember that some verbs can be followed by gerunds or infinitives. See Appendices 9, 10, 11, and 12 on pages A-6, and A-7 for listings of all these categories.

- a. Some verbs and verb phrases are followed only by gerunds. Examples of these are *avoid, consider, enjoy, feel like, have trouble, keep, mind, miss, and spend time*.
- b. Some verbs are followed only by infinitives. These include *decide, expect, manage, learn, need, seem, want, and would like*.
- c. Some verbs are followed by gerunds or infinitives with no significant meaning change. These include *begin, can't stand, continue, hate, like, love, prefer, and start*.

- Do you really **enjoy being** a couch potato?
 - Now, if you **want to spend** your leisure time channel surfing, that's your choice.
 - In fact, each day they **continue to do** the same thing.
- OR
- In fact, each day they **continue doing** the same thing.

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