

## MAIN SEMANTIC AND SYNTACTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF ENGLISH GERUND

**D.Omonova, D.Musayeva, Karshi State University**

A gerund is the term used for referring the non-finite verbal -ing form having prevalingly nominal features (e.g. playing computer games, our singing), but keeping the verbal features in its complementation. The general characteristics of a gerund is that it is a non-finite form which is formed by adding an -ing after a verb: (play+ing, paint+ing, cycle+ing, learn+ing and so on). It is considered a noun derived from the verb+ing. A gerund has the same form as the present participle. However, they function differently in the sentences. Unlike the present participle, the gerund has two kinds of features: verbal and nominal. It names the actions, behaviors, or states.

E.g. Painting makes me happy (the name of an action). Cycling is useful for health. (the name of an action). Being a teacher is my ambition (the name of a state). The present participle indicates an ongoing action or state in the present and which can function as an adjective. It functions a part of a continuous verb tense or an adjective. E.g. Children are playing football (are playing=present continuous). Liza was washing dishes when I phoned her (was washing=past continuous). Tomorrow, my friends and I are going to be travelling in Samarkand (are going to be travelling=future continuous). Unlike a gerund, a present participle can act like an adjective that modifies a noun or follows the ðbeö verb: E.g. Your story is very amazing (-beö+adjective). A scenery of new Karshi is fascinating (ðbeö+adjective). What an amazing movie! We want to watch it again (adjective+noun). Finally government revealed some worrying results (adjective+noun). As we mentioned above, the gerund is a noun derived from the verb+ing. That`s why it functions as a noun. There are some syntactic functions of the gerund in the sentence. 1) The subject: Gambling is a very dangerous occupation. Watching television makes me tired. When the gerund acts like a subject, it comes in the beginning of the sentence. It is usually singular noun and takes a singular verb. But if two gerunds form a subject, the verb is plural. In this case, gerunds are joined by conjunction like

and; it will be a plural noun. E.g. Cycling and diving are my favorite sports (There are two gerunds: 1) cycling and 2) diving. They are joined by conjunction and. They take plural verb are). The object: He stopped smoking. I enjoy walking in the rain. The gerund may be used as a direct object and as a prepositional indirect object in the sentence. You learn its function as an object in the following examples.

She loves singing and dancing (direct object). Frank didn't succeed in taking things easily (prepositional indirect object). In some cases verb+ing may function as a complex object with the predicative constructions as they consist of two distinct elements, nominal and verbal.

E.g. Perhaps you wouldn't mind Tom's coming in? (complex adjective). 3) The predicate. My favorite hobby is collecting stamps (predicate). Only thing we did during last week was fishing (predicate). In these two sentences the gerund functions as a predicate noun. The adverbial modifier.

In this function the gerund is always preceded by a preposition. It is used in the function of adverbial modifier of time, manner, cause, condition, purpose and concession, attendant circumstances. The most common functions are those of adverbial modifiers of time, manner and attendant circumstances.

E.g. After leaving her purse at home, she had to borrow money from her friend (after+gerund, adverbial modifier of time). On playing football, he broke his leg (on+gerund, adverbial modifier of time). Without knowing all details, he started to cry out us (without+gerund, adverbial modifier of attendant circumstances).

To sum up a gerund, it is a verb form ending with -ing and has the features of both the verb and the noun. It can express the active and passive voice; e.g. You must give up smoking (active voice). I don't like being disturbed when I am conducting the lesson (passive voice). It is used in the same prepositional and non-prepositional structure as the verb; e.g. to build a house vs. building a house.

It can distinguish present and past time reference and aspect; e.g. I don't mind going on foot. We don't like his having been writing letters to me.

It functions as a subject, object, complement in the sentence. It can be preceded by a preposition. It can be preceded by possessive pronouns; e.g. Excuse my interrupting you. A gerund is always a noun and can function in any noun position.

### **Reference**

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3. Huddleston, Rodney, Geoffrey Pullum. *The Cambridge grammar of the English language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.