

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## Gerunds Anyone? Using a Verbal

### Reading and Discussion

When is a verb not a verb? When it tries to imitate another part of speech.

Sometimes verbs do not act like verbs. Instead they act like nouns, adjectives and adverbs. When they do this we call them **verbals**. There are three main kinds of verbals:

1. **gerunds**
2. **infinitives**
3. **participles**

Let's concentrate on gerunds. **Gerunds** are verb forms that always end in **ing** and act like nouns. They can be the subject of a sentence. For example:

- Sailing is John's favorite activity.

**Sailing** is used as the subject. The verb is the word **is**.

A gerund can also be used as a direct object and we can even have more than one gerund in a sentence:

- John likes fencing and jogging.

The words **fencing** and **jogging** are used as direct objects in this sentence. **What** does John like? He likes **fencing** and **jogging**.

A **gerund phrase** includes the gerund and all the words needed to complete its meaning. For example:

- Sailing a boat is a lot of fun.

**Sailing** is the gerund and subject of the sentence. What are we sailing? A boat. **Sailing a boat** is a gerund phrase that gives us enough information to complete the meaning of our subject.

Like other verbals, gerunds are not used as the main verb in a sentence. Even though they are action words, they are used as nouns. Like present participles, gerunds always end in **ing**. To avoid confusing these two verbals remember:

- Gerunds are used as **nouns**.
- Present participles are used as **adjectives**.