

Take one
again

The Gerund

The Gerund is another application of the verb,
like the Infinitive and the participle.

What is the definition of the Gerund?

- A Gerund is that form of the verb which ends in ing and has the force of a noun as well as a verb.

Let us look at a sentence

Dancing is Kavya Madhavan's favourite hobby.

Here the word dancing is formed from the verb dance, by adding ing. Here we see that is is the verb. Now, which is the subject of the verb is? It is dancing. Here, dancing is also the subject of the sentence.

Now which sort of word is usually employed as the subject? It is primarily the noun. So, in this sentence, Dancing is used as a Noun. Now

Where has this word come from? It has come from the verb dance.

Such a word formed from a verb and used as a noun is called a gerund. It always takes the ing form.

Hence, Gerund is a verb noun.

Let us look at a few more examples.

Playing Cards is interesting.

Here playing is a gerund.

Let us take another example.

playing cards is not allowed here.
Subject Verb object

Here in this sentence, the Gerund playing like a noun is the subject of the verb is but like a verb, it takes an object not allowed here. Thus, it is a noun having also the force of a verb.

Let us take another sentence.

Fathima likes reading poetry.

Here the Gerund reading like a noun is the object of the verb likes but like a verb, it takes an object poetry.

Hence we find, that the Gerund is a

Noun, having also the force of a Verb. Hence, it is very much like the infinitive.

Since both the Gerund and the Infinitive have the force of a noun and a verb, they have the same uses. Thus in many sentences they may be used without any special difference in meaning.

Ex 1. Teach me to swim - ~~participle~~
infinitive

2. Teach me swimming - gerund

3. To give is better than to receive. → participles.

4. Giving is better than receiving.
- Gerunds

uses of the Gerund

A Gerund being a Verb Noun can be used in a variety of ways.

1. As subject of a Verb

Eg 1. Seeing is believing.

Subject

2. Hunting is not allowed

(in India
Subject)

2. As the object of a transitive Verb

Eg 1) Children love making mud castles

object

2. Mohan loves reading poetry.

3. It can be used as the object
of a preposition.

1. I am tired of waiting.

2. He is fond of swimming.

4. It can be used as the Complement
of a verb.

1. I hate smoking.

2. Kavya loves singing.