

GERUNDS:

A gerund is a word that ends in “-ing” that is made from a verb and used like a noun.

Here are some examples of gerunds:

1. **Learning** English is one of the most difficult things in the world!
2. My brother is not very good **at writing** emails
3. When I was young, I enjoyed **travelling**, and I have visited over 40 countries in my lifetime.

Gerunds are very common in English and we use them in three situations:

- a. To describe hobbies or activities, e.g. “**watching TV**”, “**reading books**” and “**shopping**” (or work tasks in a CV).
- b. When a verb follows a preposition, for example:
How **about playing** tennis tomorrow?
I apologise **for coming** late.
What did you do **after leaving** school?
- c. When a verb follows certain other verbs, for example “enjoy”, “suggest”, “recommend”, “advise”, “admit” etc.
I **suggest going** to the theatre.
I **enjoy walking** around in the city.
I **admitted stealing** the money.

Some languages have even loaned English gerunds to their own languages to describe hobbies and activities, for example in Swedish they use the words “boxning”, “shopping” and “bowling”.

However, for most future concepts we use the infinitive “to” = “want **to go**”, “would like **to go**”, “expect **to go**”.

Ironically, if Shakespeare had written his famous line “To be, or not to be, that is the question” in modern English, he would probably have written “Being, or not being, that is the question”.