Gerunds

Common Verbs Followed by Gerunds

A gerund is a noun formed by taking a verb and adding the suffix “-ing.” The gerund form of “give,” for example, is “giving.” Gerunds are used as the objects of certain verbs.

Example 1: I enjoy playing tennis → INCORRECT: I enjoy to play tennis.

The verb enjoy is followed by a gerund (playing).
Enjoy cannot be followed by an infinitive.

Example 2: Joe quit smoking. or Joe gave up smoking.

Both sentences have the same meaning.
Some phrasal verbs, such as give up, are followed by gerunds.

Verb + gerund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Postpone (put off)</th>
<th>Enjoy</th>
<th>Stop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quit (give up)</td>
<td>Mind</td>
<td>Consider (think about)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoid</td>
<td>Mention</td>
<td>Keep (keep on)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delay</td>
<td>Suggest</td>
<td>Discuss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appreciate</td>
<td>Finish (get through)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Go + Gerund

Go is followed by a gerund in certain idiomatic expressions to express, for the most part, recreational activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Go sailing</th>
<th>Go sightseeing</th>
<th>Go dancing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Go bowling</td>
<td>Go swimming</td>
<td>Go camping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Go hiking</td>
<td>Go golfing</td>
<td>Go shopping</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prepositions Combinations followed by Gerunds

VERB + PREPOSITION + GERUND

1. Example: I apologize for eating the last cookie.
   → Verb + for doing (something)
   - blame (someone) - forgive (someone) - have an excuse
   - have a reason - be responsible - thank (someone)

2. Example: He was accused of stealing her bracelet.
   → Verb + of doing (something)
   - be capable - for the purpose - be guilty - be tired
   - instead - take advantage - take care

3. Example: I look forward to spending time with my grandmother.
   → Verb + to doing (something)
   - be accustomed - in addition - be committed - be devoted
   - object - be opposed - be used

4. Example: I often talk about moving to a different city.
   → Verb + about / of doing (something)
   - complain - dream - think

5. Example: I am interested in traveling to South America.
   → Verb + in doing (something)
   - Believe - participate - succeed

6. Example: I stopped him from making a silly mistake.
   → Verb + from doing (something)
   - keep (someone) - prevent (someone) - prohibit (someone)

7. Example: I am worried about not passing my driving test.
   → Verb + about doing (something)
   - be excited

8. Example: I insist on paying the bill.
   → Verb + on doing (something)
Practice Exercise

Exercise 1
1) He told a really funny joke. We couldn’t stop ________________.
2) Would you mind ______________ the windows please?
3) I enjoy ________________ long walks in the fall.
4) I am thinking about ________________ a dinner party.

Exercise 2
1) I have no excuse ______________ (be) ______________ late.
2) Dianne is always complaining ______ (have) ________ a headache.
3) Thank you ________ (help) ____________ me carry my suitcases.
4) Andrea isn’t interested ________ (look) _____________ for a new job.
5) The rain prevented us ___________ (complete) ____________ the work.

Answers

Exercise 1: laughing; opening; taking; having

Exercise 2: for being; about having; for helping; in looking; from completing