

## TO THE TEACHER

## Gerunds

Most grammar books start with gerunds after certain verbs and ignore everything else, but gerunds are everywhere, and even if a student can't produce a sentence with a gerund at this point, it clears up confusion when they can recognize that "this -ing word" is not a verb. (in my opinion)

**Using a picture**

This is fairly advanced, but effective.

1) Either show the picture on the screen or hand some copies around.



Ask the questions used for Visual Thinking Strategies (<http://www.vtshome.org/what-is-vts>) and write down the verbs that the students use or paraphrase using a more appropriate verb. It's OK if you use gerunds while you do this. Repetition is good!! (Of course using the whole VTS method is ideal.)

- What is going on in this picture?
- What do you see that makes you say that?
- What more can we find?

## TO THE TEACHER

Take notes!

After studying the picture, y. Write some possibilities on the board and augment it if necessary. Use the Ving form.

Examples:

- having a baby - having four babies
- smiling
- trying to smile
- holding
- worrying
- making enough money
- taking fertility drugs
- wearing blue/ wearing pink
- crying babies

Ask each student to write 5 sentences using gerunds in these ways. Add examples if they need them

- 1 Use a gerund as a subject. Example: <sup>\*</sup> Studying English takes a lot of time.  
What?
- 2 Use a gerund as an object. Example: We don't mind studying English.
- 3 Use a gerund after a preposition. Example: This is a time <for studying English.>
- 4 Use a gerund as a describer; Example: Which <sup>Ds</sup> <sup>\*</sup> studying techniques work best for you?

So you might come up with

Having 4 babies at one time is a lot of work.

Sometimes this can happen <from taking fertility drugs.

They will enjoy raising their children.

Four crying babies are hard to take care of.

## TO THE TEACHER



- being happy
- getting married
- waiting
- wearing a white wedding dress
- smiling
- giving red roses/getting red roses
- celebrating
- loving
- being in love
- falling in love

### Practicing the verbs that take gerunds, not infinitives

1. Print these verbs on card stock or paper and give one or two to each student.
2. Ask them to use write a sentence using a gerund after the verb.
3. Those who finish quickly can write the same sentences using a modal, a different tense, making a question or a negative, etc.
4. Volunteers put their sentences on the board and mark the subject, X-words, verb forms, and "what?" i.e., the object.

<b>admit</b>	<b>consider</b>	<b>escape</b>	<b>mind</b>	<b>recommend</b>
--------------	-----------------	---------------	-------------	------------------

## TO THE TEACHER

---

appreciate	recall	favor	miss	regret
avoid	deny	fear	postpone	resent
can't help	dread	finish	practice	resist
complete	endure	imagine	put off	risk
recall	enjoy	keep	quit	suggest

**Discovering Gerunds in Text**

1. Bring in a magazine or newspaper that you can rip up and give a page to each student.
2. Give the class 5 minutes to find and circle as many -ing words as they can find.
3. Ask them to count how many gerunds and how many Ving verbs they found.
4. Check the winner's list and give a "prize" (the favorite in my class is to let that student go on break 5 minutes early!)
5. Ask the student to write a couple of the sentences on the board and tell us (with the help of classmates) what the gerund's job is.