

Department of Literature and Arabic Language

Master 1 LMD Students

### The Gerund

The gerund has exactly the same form of the present participle of the verb but the gerund functions as a noun whereas the present participle is a form of a verb .

Exemples :

\*Smoking is bad for health (gerund)

\*The man in blue jacket is smoking a cigarette (verb)

The gerund can be used :

1-As subject or object

\*As a subject : It is easier to read French than to speak it .

Reading French is easier than speaking it.

\*As an object : Ahmed likes sleeping.

2-After prepositions :

When a verb is placed immediatly after a preposition,the gerund form must be used :

Eg : He insisted on seeing her.

He was accused of smuggling.

He is good at telling lies.

She is fond of climbing.

3- After certain verbs : The most important of these are :

Admit,appreciate, finish,dislike,enjoy,miss,  
suggest,pardon,understand,remember,stop,consider,deny,keep,continue,like,love,hate,mind,forgive,  
postpone,prevent,avoid,detest.

Eg : He admitted taking the money.

Try to avoid making him angry.

She detests writing letters.

Do you enjoy teaching ?

4-In compound nouns :

Eg : A diving board. (board for diving)

5- The gerund is used in short prohibitions :

Eg : No smoking.

No perking.

Exercise : Give the correct form of the verbs between brackets :

-(fish) is my favourite sport. I often (fish) four hours without (catch) anything. Some fishermen are unlucky. Instead of (catch) fish, they (catch) old boots. For me I never (catch) anything not even old boots. After I have spent whole morning on the river, I always (go) home with an empty bag . « You must give up (fish) », my friends (say). But they don't (realize) that I'm not interested in (fish) I am only interested in (sit) and (do) nothing at all.