WEEK NINE: Lesson One

SUBJECT: English Language

GRADE: Ten

TOPIC: Phrases

SUB-TOPIC: Gerund Phrase

OBJECTIVES:

- Correctly, define the term ‘gerund’ and ‘gerund phrase’.
- Correctly, identify the gerund and gerund phrase from given sentences.

- A **gerund phrase** is created when a gerund – a verb that takes an \(-ing\) form and functions as a noun – has a modifier, object or both. That sounds quite technical, so let’s break it down for a simple explanation of a gerund phrase:

First, here is an example of a gerund phrase in a sentence

- *Eating a slice of pie quickly is a recipe for disaster.*

So, we can breakdown the gerund phrase like so:

- The gerund in the sentence is *eating*. (Remember, a gerund is a noun that is formed by adding the \(-ing\) suffix to a verb.)
- The Gerund phrase object in the sentence (the thing being acted upon, in this case by eating) is *a slice of pie*.
- The modifier in the sentence is *quickly*.

Examples of a gerund being used as a subject, direct object, predicate nominative, and object of a preposition:

- **Swimming** is good exercise. (subject)
- The girls enjoy **swimming**. (direct object)
- The best exercise is **swimming**. (predicate nominative)
- She was scolded for **swimming**. (object of a preposition)
A gerund phrase will follow these rules, which can help you identify a gerund phrase in a sentence:

- The phrase will always start with a gerund.
- The gerund phrase will either have a modifier, an object or both.
- The entire phrase will function as a noun.
- The phrase will have singular agreement with a verb.

Look at these examples with the gerund phrases used in different ways:

- Reading books quietly is my favorite pastime.
- My favorite pastime is reading books quietly
- I recommend reading books quietly to pass the time.

**Exercise 1**

**DIRECTIONS:** Underline the gerund phrase in each sentence.

1. Sleeping through the night is difficult for me.
2. Our top priority was getting everyone on the plane
3. Watching bad television defined my teenage years.
4. I love sleeping through the night.
5. . Why don’t you make completing a marathon your main goal?
6. The critical issue of his arrest wasn’t driving without a license.
7. My parents prefer eating dinner alone.
8. Running with scissors on a slippery floor was a terrible idea.
9. We would not recommend travelling without insurance.
10. Clinton gave running for president her best shot.
11. His daughter enjoys fixing broken bicycles.
12. Making noise is what happy children and almost all teenagers do best.
13. Her favorite thing was listening to music.
14. We make writing three poems a requirement to pass our course.
15. Men don’t always see raising children well as an accomplishment.
16. Do they like swimming with dolphins?
17. As part of her new wellness regimen, Jenny made sleeping through the night her priority
18. A good career for her might be coaching soccer.
19. Travelling across France should be a rite of passage for all writers.
20. Stretching all the muscles takes up much of a dancer’s practice time.
Exercise 2

**DIRECTIONS:** Write gerund or gerund phrase to identify the underlined words. Write subject, direct object, predicate nominative, or object of a preposition to identify how each gerund or gerund phrase is used in the sentence.

1. Dancing takes many forms. ________________________________
2. Preparation for dancing in a troupe begins early in life. _____________________
3. The grandest movement of ballet is leaping. _____________________________
4. In the 1920s modern dancers started moving in a completely new way. __________
5. Now dancers enjoy studying traditional forms. _____________________________
6. The darkness of the night prevented us from finishing the job. _______________
7. Rising with the sun did not appeal to him. ________________________________
1. *Sleeping through the night* is difficult for me.
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**Exercise 2**

1. Gerund—Subject
2. Gerund Phrase—Object Of A Preposition, Subject
3. Gerund—Predicate Nominative
4. Gerund Phrase—Direct Object
5. Gerund Phrase—Direct Object
6. Gerund Phrase—Object Of A Preposition
7. Gerund Phrase—Subject