

Week 5

Gerund Phrases

Read this report of a speech given in New York state in 1657 and think carefully about it.

Finally, the Father assumed a louder tone, and with impassioned words he exclaimed: "It is not for purposes of trade that you see us appear in your country. We aim much higher. Your furs are of too little value in our eyes to induce us to undertake so long, so difficult, and so dangerous a journey. Keep your beaver-skins, if you choose, for the Dutch; even those which may come into our hands will be used for your own good. We seek not perishable things. For the Faith, we have left our country; for the Faith, we have abandoned our relatives and our friends; for the Faith, we have crossed the Ocean; for the Faith, we have quitted the great Ships of the French, to embark in your small canoes; for the Faith, we have given up fine houses, to lodge in your bark cabins; for the Faith, we deprive ourselves of our natural nourishment, and the delicate viands that we might have enjoyed in France, to eat your boiled meal and other food, which the animals of our country would hardly touch."

Then, taking up a very fine collar of porcelain beads, artistically made, he continued: "For the sake of the Faith, I hold this rich present in my hand, and I open my mouth to remind you of the word that you pledged us when you came down to Québec to conduct us to your country. You solemnly promised to lend ear to the words of the great God. They are in my mouth; listen to them; I am but his spokesman. He informs you by His Messengers that His Son made Himself man for love of you; that that Man, the Son of God, is the Prince and the Master of Mankind; that He has prepared in Heaven eternal pleasures and joys for those who obey His commandments; and that He kindles horrible fires in Hell for those who refuse to receive His word.

His law is easy; it forbids doing injury either to the property, or the life, or the wife, or the reputation of one's neighbor. Can anything be more reasonable? It commands that respect, love, and reverence be given to Him who has made all and who preserves the universe. Are your minds offended by so natural a truth? *Jesus Christ*, who is the Son of Him who has made all, became our brother and yours by clothing Himself with our flesh; He preached those beautiful truths; He caused them to be painted and written in a book; He ordered that they be carried throughout the world. That is what brings us to your country; that is what opens our mouths; and we are so certain of all those truths, that we are prepared to lose our lives in maintaining them. If thou reject them in thy heart be thou Onnontagheronnon, Sonnontoueronnon, Annieronnon, Oneiogouenronnon, or Onneioutehronnon, know that Jesus Christ, who animates my heart and my voice, will one day cast thee into Hell. But avoid that misfortune by thy conversion; be not the cause of thine own ruin; listen to the voice of the Almighty. "

These and many other words, full of fire and uttered with most Christian vehemence, caused those poor Barbarians such astonishment, that they seemed quite beside themselves; their minds wavered between joy and fear. The approval was so

general and universal, that one would have said that all wanted to place the Father in their hearts. No endearment, in their opinion, was sufficiently great to bestow upon him. Tears fell from the eyes of our French, when they saw our Lord so grandly announced in this extremity of the world. For my part, I must admit that what I saw and heard on that occasion surpasses anything that can be said or written of it. If, after that, the devil should turn the heads of these poor people and lead them to kill us, *Justificabitur in sermonibus suis*. We shall, at least, have justified our God in His words.

Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents, Volume 43, page 173-177

Write your first response to this report. Read it again if you need to understand it better. What is the most striking thing about it? What did you find interesting? What thoughts came to your mind as you read it? What are the best parts of it?



Grammar Study

Gerund Phrases

A *gerund* is a verbal form that is used as a noun. A *gerund phrase* is the gerund plus any objects and modifiers, such as prepositional phrases, that go with it.

Walking is a great form of exercise.

Walking to the school everyday helped the boys get enough exercise.

Exercise A

Identify the gerunds and gerund phrases in the following sentences. Say how the gerund is used. (Is it the subject, the predicate nominative, or the direct object of the sentence, or is it the object of a preposition?)

1. His favorite sport is skating.
2. Brushing his teeth was hard work once he had broken his arm.
3. We loved fishing in the creek below our hill.
4. All the children loved eating the fresh hot cookies.
5. Running in the morning made her feel energized all day.
6. She won sainthood by praying.
7. Seeing is believing.

Exercise B

A gerund can have an object.

Walking the crowded streets in the morning improved his heart rate.

In the gerund phrase *walking the crowded streets in the morning*, the word “streets” is the object of the gerund “walking.” The prepositional phrase *in the morning* is used as an adverb modifying “walking.” (NOTE: *Crowded* is a participle modifying *streets*.) Write the gerund phrases from the following sentences and label any modifiers (prepositional phrases) or objects. Say how the gerund is used (subject, predicate nominative, object of the preposition, or direct object).

Example using the sentence above:

Gerund phrase: Walking the crowded streets in the morning

- used as the subject of the sentence
- “streets” is the object of the gerund
- “in the morning” prepositional phrase modifying walking

1. Eating apples can be a healthy habit.
2. Annie enjoyed doing her best in her schoolwork.
3. Her only consolation during this time was praying with all her might.
4. He had a bad habit of exaggerating his accomplishments.
5. He contemplated leaving home to find a job in the city.

Exercise C

Name the sentences in Exercise A in which the gerund has an object, and those in which the gerund has a modifying prepositional phrase.

Day 2

Guided Response

Reread the report of the speech on Day 1 and discuss the following questions with your teacher.

1. Explain the purpose for the speech. Do you think the priest accomplishes his purpose? How can you tell?
2. Read each paragraph in the speech carefully and on your paper write the main idea of each paragraph. Then, summarize the priest's speech—not the whole selection, just the part where the priest is speaking.
3. What arguments does the priest use to try to convince the Indians to adopt Christianity?
4. Remember that writers and speech makers persuade in three different ways:
 - (1) by establishing their credibility as an authority on the topic;
 - (2) by using emotional appeals;
 - (3) by using logical reasoning.

Usually persuasive writing includes a combination of these three rhetorical tools. Which of the three kinds of persuasive arguments does the priest employ? Give an example of each one you claim he uses.

5. Why does the writer feel good about the speech by the priest? Give several reasons.
6. What does the writer mean at the end when he says that we will have justified God in His words?



Grammar Study

Practice with Gerunds

Gerunds are used as objects of certain verbs. The following verbs usually have a gerund as its object:

enjoy	quit	avoid	mention	appreciate
finish	keep	suggest	discuss	consider
delay	postpone	stop	mind	put off

Example: Don't put off *working* on your music.

Exercise A

Complete the following sentences by writing a gerund or gerund phrase that would be appropriate.

1. During the movie, we couldn't stop _____.
2. When she first learned to ride a bike, she barely avoided _____.
3. Would you mind _____?
4. Our teacher asked us to consider _____.
5. Even though we'll have to postpone _____, we will meet again next week.
6. Don't delay _____ or you will be sorry later.
7. After I finish _____, I will be able to go for a bike ride.
8. All the children enjoyed _____ so much that they asked to stay longer.

Exercise B

Listed below are a few more verbs that can take a gerund as an object. Use each one in a sentence, including a *gerund phrase* as the object. In your sentence, label the gerund, its object, and any modifying prepositional phrases).

Example: prefer

The girls prefer ^{gerund} baking ^{DOg} their bread ^{mod} (on Saturday).

begin like hate start continue love

Day 3

Writing

In an opinion paper, the writer wants to convince the reader of his opinion; in a persuasive paper the writer wants the reader to *do* something. He intends to move the reader to *action*. This week you will write a persuasive paper in which you try to convince someone to take a particular action.

Here is the form of a persuasive paper:

- Introduction:** Describe a situation and the specific response you want the reader to make to it. (“Call to action.”)
- Body:**
- Give a first reason and support it
 - Give a second reason and support it
 - Acknowledge any opposing views and answer them
 - Give the third and strongest reason and support it
- Conclusion:** Wrap up and call to action.

In order to be effectively persuasive, you must understand your audience and find the best way to convince them.

You will write a persuasive paper this week. Choose one of the following topics for your paper:

1. Convince your reader to give up watching television.
2. Convince your reader to support a particular political candidate.
3. Convince your reader that video games are good or bad for users and should be either encouraged or banned.
4. Convince your reader to volunteer at the local homeless shelter.
5. Convince the library to purchase a particular book that you like.

(You may select your own topic with the permission of your teacher, but remember that that the purpose of your paper is to get someone to **do** something.

Prewriting: Think carefully about your chosen topic and decide exactly what action you want to persuade people to take. Your paper will be focused around this action. It becomes the thesis statement of your paper.

Do not use the words *I think* in your “call to action” statement.

Example:

Instead of: I think that the state legislature should enact a law to require trash cans at every street corner.

Say: The state legislature should immediately enact a law to require trash cans at every street corner.

Once you have a strong thesis statement, think of reasons or arguments that will convince people to take the action you want. List your reasons. Put them in order from least to most convincing. You will save the most convincing argument for last. Then, use the chart on the next page to chart your paper. Jot *notes* (not complete sentences, necessarily) about the information that supports each of your reasons. Use examples from your own experience, information you have researched, or anecdotes as your support.

When you are done with your chart, set it aside until Day 4.

Note-taking Chart for Persuasive Paper

Introduction (describe problem)
Suggested course of action: (thesis statement/call to action)
Reason #1 Explain, use examples
Reason #2
Acknowledge possible objections to your idea:
Reason #3 (The strongest, most convincing reason)
Conclusion
Call to Action:

Note: You may include more than 3 reasons if you like. If you do, make another box for the chart.

Grammar Study

Review Gerunds

A gerund is a verbal noun that can be used as the subject, direct object, or predicate nominative of a sentence. They may also be used as the object of a preposition.

A gerund may also take an object and have prepositional phrase modifiers.

Exercise A

Write 4 sentences using a gerund in each one. In the first use the gerund as the subject of the sentence; in the second, use the gerund as the direct object of the sentence; in the third, use the gerund as the predicate nominative of a sentence (be sure there is a linking verb as the predicate); and in the last sentence, use the gerund as the object of a preposition.

Exercise B

Identify the gerund phrases in the following sentences and write them on your paper. Tell how the gerund is used in the sentence. Label the gerund, its object, and any modifiers (prepositional phrases).

Example: Her first mistake was not trusting her own intuition in the matter.

Ger DOg prep phrase-adj
Gerund phrase: trusting her own intuition (in the matter)
Used as the predicate nominative

1. Traveling from one city to the next is difficult in this small car.
2. Worried about the clumsiness of the workers, Mrs. Clonert began moving her furniture to the deck.
3. She was rewarded for giving her life in service to the poor.
4. They found out that the little boy liked playing the clown around his friends.
5. Preparing for the trip was taking most of the week.
6. After trying every other option, they thought of writing to the governor.

Day 4

Writing

Today you will write a first draft of your persuasive paper. Review the notes you made yesterday. Add to them as needed. To write your paper, begin by explaining the problem and then giving your “call to action” or thesis statement. Then the body of your paper is spent convincing your reader that your course of action is the best.

Use your chart to help you keep your paper in order as you write. Each box in the chart becomes one paragraph in your paper. Use transition words as you begin each paragraph. For example,

Another reason . . .
Besides . . .
Above all . . .
Moreover . . .
Finally . . .

Transitions helps papers read more smoothly. They help your reader make connections between thoughts. Appropriate use of them will make your paper more organized and understandable because they improve the connections and transitions between thoughts.

Write a strong conclusion so that the reader has no doubt what action you want him to take.

After you write your draft, ask someone to read it for you. Ask your reader if your arguments are convincing and if the progression of your thought is logical. Then make any changes in your paper based on the feedback you receive. You might consider having several different people read it to get several different opinions on it.

Save this paper in your drafts folder.

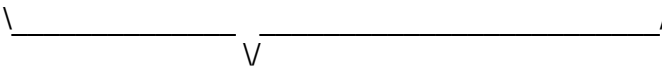
Grammar Study

Review – Phrases: Prepositional and Verbal

Review the four kinds of phrases discussed in the last 3 weeks. Be able to explain the construction of each one and say how each one is used. Copy the chart below onto

your paper and use it to explain each kind of phrase to your teacher. Use each kind of phrase in a sentence to demonstrate your understanding of it.

Name	Prepositional	Infinitive	Gerund	Participle
How is it formed	Preposition + object	To <u>(verb)</u>	___ing	___ing ___ed Have ___
Function	Modifier	Noun or modifier	Noun	modifier



Verbals – can be used alone (don't have to have a phrase)

Exercise

Identify the prepositional, gerund, infinitive, and participle phrases in the following sentences and write them on your paper. Label them (gerund=G, infinitive=Inf, participle=PPpast or present, and preposition=PS) and their objects/complements.

Example: (Lost^{PPpast} [in the raging storm]^{PS}), the frightened campers tried (to console each other^{inf} [with uplifting stories]^{OP}), the frightened civilians heard the wailing of the air-raid sirens^{DOi}).

1. Listening to music is his favorite way to relax after a busy day.
2. During the exciting climax of the movie, the loud talking of the people behind us was unbearable.
3. In the middle of the raging battle, the frightened civilians heard the wailing of the air-raid sirens.
4. Are those crying children going to the school nurse to put splints on their broken arms and legs?

If you need more practice with phrases, see Appendix B Extra Practice