

# Gerunds and Gerund Phrases

A **gerund** is a "verb + *ing*" used as a noun.

*Examples:*

*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** consists of a gerund and related words.

*Example:*

*Swimming in the lake* is good exercise.



**Underline the gerund or gerund phrase in each sentence.**

1. Although he is famous today, Rudolph Nureyev's birth on a train in Russia was a modest beginning.
2. Nureyev began his great career by dancing with amateur groups.
3. One of his skills was leaping like a gazelle.
4. Leaving Moscow changed Nureyev's career forever.
5. The dance world in London, Paris, and New York competed in praising his performances.
6. At recitals in which Nureyev danced, the orchestra was often drowned out by wild cheering.
7. Watching his impossibly high leaps was an unforgettable experience.
8. His dancing is known to everyone.
9. Driving in a crowded city was a new experience for Nicolás.
10. She could not stop humming that tune.



**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.**

11. Dancing takes many forms. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Preparation for dancing in a troupe begins early in life. \_\_\_\_\_
13. Stretching all the muscles takes up much of a dancer's practice time. \_\_\_\_\_
14. The grandest movement of ballet is leaping. \_\_\_\_\_
15. In the 1920s modern dancers started moving in a completely new way. \_\_\_\_\_
16. Now dancers enjoy studying traditional forms. \_\_\_\_\_
17. The darkness of the night prevented us from finishing the job. \_\_\_\_\_
18. Rising with the sun did not appeal to him. \_\_\_\_\_

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## Answer Key

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1. beginning
2. dancing with amateur groups
3. leaping like a gazelle
4. Leaving Moscow
5. praising his performances
6. cheering
7. Watching his impossibly high leaps
8. dancing
9. Driving in a crowded city
10. humming that tune
11. gerund—subject
12. gerund phrase—object of a preposition,
13. gerund phrase—subject
14. gerund—predicate nominative
15. gerund phrase—direct object
16. gerund phrase—direct object
17. gerund phrase—object of a preposition
18. gerund phrase—subject



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