



I HATE DOING THE DISHES

Grammar Explanation: What Are Gerunds?

Read the explanation below to understand gerunds.

A **gerund** is a verb form ending in **-ing** that acts as a noun. For example, in the sentence “I hate doing the dishes,” “doing” is a gerund because it’s the thing (noun) that I hate. Gerunds are often used to talk about activities, like chores or hobbies.

Examples from the Story:

- “Mia hated **doing** the dishes more than anything.” (**Doing** is the gerund, acting as the thing Mia hates.)
- “She turned **dishwashing** into a dance party.” (**Dishwashing** is a gerund, describing the activity.)
- “**Scrubbing** made her want to scream.” (**Scrubbing** is the gerund, acting as the subject of the sentence.)

Common Uses of Gerunds:

1. As the **subject** of a sentence: **Cooking** is fun for some people.
2. As the **object** of a verb: I enjoy **reading** books.
3. After prepositions: She’s tired of **cleaning** the kitchen.
4. After certain verbs (like hate, love, enjoy): Mia hates **doing** chores.

Activity 1: Identify the Gerund

Read the sentences below. Circle the gerund in each sentence and write whether it is used as a **subject**, **object**, or **after a preposition**.

1. Washing the dishes is Mia’s least favorite chore. _____
2. Mia tried dancing to make cleaning more fun. _____
3. She’s good at scrubbing greasy pans. _____
4. Leo avoids helping with the dishes. _____
5. Singing while working makes Mia happy. _____

Activity 2: Fill in the Blank

Complete each sentence with the correct gerund from the word bank.

Word Bank: *cooking sweeping washing listening doing*

1. Mia doesn’t like _____ the dishes every night.
2. _____ dinner can be fun, but cleaning up is not.
3. Leo enjoys _____ to music instead of helping.
4. _____ greasy plates takes a lot of effort.
5. _____ the floor is another chore Mia hates.

Activity 3: Sentence Creation

Write 3 sentences using gerunds. Use one gerund as a **subject**, one as an **object**, and one **after a preposition**. Use the verbs below or your own ideas. Share your sentences with a partner.

Suggested Verbs: clean, sing, dance, study, cook

Activity 4: Error Correction

Some sentences below have mistakes with gerunds. Find and correct the mistakes. If the sentence is correct, write "Correct."

1. Mia hates to do the dishes every day. _____
2. Scrub the pans is hard work. _____
3. She's good at wash greasy plates. _____
4. Singing while working is fun. _____
5. Leo avoids to help with chores. _____

Teacher's Key

Grammar Explanation: What Are Gerunds?

Teacher's Note: Explain that gerunds are common when talking about chores. Practice the examples aloud to help students hear the -ing sound.

Activity 1: Identify the Gerund

Read the sentences below. Circle the gerund in each sentence and write whether it is used as a **subject**, **object**, or **after a preposition**.

1. Washing the dishes is Mia's least favorite chore. Washing (subject)
2. Mia tried dancing to make cleaning more fun. Cleaning (object)
3. She's good at scrubbing greasy pans. Scrubbing (after a preposition)
4. Leo avoids helping with the dishes. Helping (object)
5. Singing while working makes Mia happy. Singing (subject)

Activity 2: Fill in the Blank

Complete each sentence with the correct gerund from the word bank.

Word Bank: *cooking* *sweeping* *washing* *listening* *doing*

1. Mia doesn't like doing the dishes every night.
2. cooking dinner can be fun, but cleaning up is not.
3. Leo enjoys listening to music instead of helping.
4. washing greasy plates takes a lot of effort.
5. sweeping the floor is another chore Mia hates.

Activity 3: Sentence Creation

Suggested Verbs: clean, sing, dance, study, cook

Example for Teachers:

- **Subject:** Dancing makes Mia feel happy.
- **Object:** Mia loves singing pop songs.
- **After a preposition:** She's tired of cleaning the kitchen.

Teacher's Note: Encourage creativity and check that students use gerunds correctly. For lower-level students, allow them to use the suggested verbs. For higher-level students, challenge them to use their own verbs.

Activity 4: Error Correction

1. **Incorrect:** Mia hates **doing** the dishes every day. (Use gerund after "hate.")
2. **Incorrect:** **Scrubbing** the pans is hard work. (Gerund needed as subject.)
3. **Incorrect:** She's good at **washing** greasy plates. (Use gerund after preposition "at.")
4. Correct
5. **Incorrect:** Leo avoids **helping** with chores. (Use gerund after "avoid.")