

Gerunds: Versus Present Participles

Both **gerunds** and **present participles** are formed by taking the base form of the verb and adding “-ing”. They look the same. However, they serve different grammatical functions, so we consider them to be two different grammatical structures.

- An “-ing” form of the verb that can be replaced with a noun, is a gerund.

I enjoy swimming. I enjoy ice cream.

- An “-ing” form of the verb that is part of the verb phrase or acts like a verb is a present participle.

He was swimming in the ocean when he saw a shark.

- Present participles can also be used to modify nouns.

It was an interesting party.

- Don’t be confused by other words that end in “-ing” but that are not gerunds OR present participles.

For example, “a meeting” and “a warning” are both nouns.

In each of these sentences, indicate whether the “-ing” form of the verb is a GERUND or a PRESENT PARTICIPLE.

Example Sentence	GERUND or PRESENT PARTICIPLE?
1. Shoveling snow is hard work!	_____
2. They were out shoveling snow.	_____
3. The band has made a lot of money performing at concerts around North America.	_____
4. They have been performing for the past year.	_____
5. The management anticipates hiring three new employees next month.	_____
6. The children are eagerly anticipating Christmas.	_____
7. Hurry up! We are waiting for you!	_____
8. Waiting at the bus stop when it is cold outside is NOT fun.	_____