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GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

Gerunds

IRREGULAR ENDINGS

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EXPLANATION

- **GERUNDS** and **PRESENT PARTICIPLES** are made using the **-ing** form of a verb.
- You will certainly need **GERUNDS** in your IELTS Writing and Speaking Tests, as well as finding them in your IELTS Reading and Listening Tests.
- Usually, we add **-ing** to the infinitive form of the verb.
- However, it is sometimes more complicated. We need to know about some **irregular endings**.

THE -ING FORM SPELLING RULES

- If the infinitive ends in **-e**, we nearly always leave it out: **to like** = liking; **to love** = loving; **to hate** = hating; **to blame** = blaming; **to bribe** = bribing
- If the infinitive ends in **-ee**, we do not take out the letter **-e**: **to agree** = agreeing; **to flee** = fleeing; **to see** = seeing
- If a verb has one syllable and one vowel, and ends in a consonant, we double the consonant: **to stab** = stabbing; **to wag** = wagging; **to drug** = drugging; **to slim** = slimming; **to swim** = swimming; **to run** = running; **to stop** = stopping; **to hit** = hitting

THE -ING FORM SPELLING RULES

- Verbs with more syllables and a final syllable with one vowel which ends in a consonant also follow this rule if this final syllable is stressed: **to begin** = beginning; **to prefer** = preferring; **to admit** = admitting; **to underpin** = underpinning; **to forget** = forgetting; **to regret** = regretting; **to upset** = upsetting
- If the final syllable is not stressed, the final consonant is not doubled: **to enter** = entering; **to happen** = happening; **to vacuum** = vacuuming
- If this type of verb ends in **-l**, the **l** is always doubled. It doesn't matter if the syllable is stressed or not: **to travel** = travelling; **to instil** = instilling; **to signal** = signalling
- These rules do not apply to verbs ending in **-sh**, **-ch** and **-y**: **to wash** = washing; **to watch** = watching; **to say** = saying

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GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

Gerunds

IN CONTINUOUS TENSES

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EXPLANATION

- **GERUNDS** (**-ing** forms) are extremely common in English and have several uses.
- Errors with **GERUNDS** are very frequent in IELTS Speaking and Writing Tests. Candidates who can avoid these errors usually get higher grades.
- **GERUNDS** are also common in the IELTS Reading and Listening Tests.
- They can be used in **continuous tenses**.

GERUNDS

WITH CONTINUOUS TENSES

All continuous tenses require the use of the **–ing** form:

- The company's management **is taking** the matter seriously.
- The matter **is being taken** seriously.
- Meetings **are taking place** over the coming weeks.
- The situation **was improving**.
- The situation **was being improved**.
- Over the past few years, the amount of time which schoolchildren have to spend doing their homework **has been going up**.
- For thousands of years, humans **have been puzzling** about the mysteries of the universe.
- Before the financial crash, the economy **had been improving**.

GERUNDS

WITH CONTINUOUS TENSES

All continuous tenses require the use of the **–ing** form:

- It has been estimated that by the middle of this century, many of the world's major cities **will be running** out of water.
- This time next week I **will be being criticised** by my boss.
- Next April, I **will have been working** here for exactly twenty years.
- If I were you, I **would be wondering** why nothing had happened.
- I still **would be working** there now if the new manager hadn't taken an instant dislike to me.
- The number of individuals living below the breadline **should/ought to /might/could be going down**.
- You **should/ought to/might/could have been listening**.



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GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

Gerunds

VERBAL NOUNS

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EXPLANATION

- **GERUNDS** (**-ing** forms) are extremely common in English and have several uses.
- Errors with **GERUNDS** are very frequent in IELTS Speaking and Writing Tests. Candidates who can avoid these errors usually get higher grades.
- **GERUNDS** are also common in the IELTS Reading and Listening Tests.
- They can be used as **verbal nouns**.

GERUNDS AS VERBAL NOUNS

We can use gerunds alone or in noun phrases as the subject or object of a sentence, to refer to general actions (and not particular actions):

- **Living in a large urban area** has its drawbacks. One option for some is **moving to the countryside**.
- **Working in heavy industry** can have serious health implications.
- **Wanting a higher standard of living** is certainly not a crime.
- **Being a brain-surgeon** is a prestigious and well-remunerated job. Yet it has its downsides.
- It has been proved that **listening to loud music** can have a detrimental effect on your health.

GERUNDS AS VERBAL NOUNS

- **Developing an understanding of human motivation** is essential for teachers and others who work with children.
- **Throwing away perfectly edible food** is, as far as I am concerned, a terrible crime in a world where millions face hunger and starvation.
- **Singing** and **painting** are said to be amongst the most relaxing pastimes which one can participate in. Apparently, after an hour in the choir or with a paint-brush in hand, most people feel calmer and more relaxed.
- **Tackling climate change** is probably the most serious issue facing our species at the moment. **Dealing with it** must be our priority.
- In many education systems, **understanding** is not as highly valued as it should be.

GERUNDS

AS VERBAL NOUNS

Sometimes it is possible to use infinitive forms as subjects of the sentence or clause, especially when we refer to particular actions:

- **To drive** so quickly was wrong. I don't know why he did it. (= It was wrong to drive so quickly in that particular situation)
- **To refuse** the manager's invitation to dinner would have seemed impolite. (= To refuse that specific invitation would seem impolite)
- I know that **to compromise** is the best approach. (= It would be best to compromise in this situation)
- **To volunteer** to work in Thailand sounded like a great idea. (= It seemed like a great idea on that particular occasion)
- **To err** is human; **to forgive** is divine. (= It is human to make a mistake in a particular situation)



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GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

Gerunds

STRUCTURES WITH VERBS

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EXPLANATION

- **GERUNDS** (**-ing** forms) are extremely common in English and have several uses.
- Errors with **GERUNDS** are very frequent in IELTS Speaking and Writing Tests. Candidates who can avoid these errors usually get higher grades.
- **GERUNDS** are also common in the IELTS Reading and Listening Tests.
- They can be used in **structures with verbs**.

GERUNDS IN STRUCTURES WITH VERBS

When a verb is followed by a preposition, a second verb which follows it is usually in the **-ing** form:

- The level **went on rising** over the whole period.
- The percentage of adults who own their own home is expected to **keep on falling** during the coming years.
- It is important to **carry on doing** what you believe in, even when you are criticised by your nearest and dearest.
- Many poorer people have **thought about emigrating**.
- Many students do not **worry about being** late for class.
- Many addicts would love to **give up smoking** cigarettes.

GERUNDS

IN STRUCTURES WITH VERBS

When a verb is followed by a preposition, a second verb which follows it is usually in the **-ing** form:

- In some cultures, men **insist on opening** doors for women and **carrying** their bags. Of course, some women find this endearing, whilst others feel it effectively turns them into second-class citizens.
- Most people in western countries **look forward to seeing** their families at Christmas.
- You don't **believe in letting** the grass grow under your feet, do you?
- Most of us would **benefit from cutting down** on fatty foods.
- I hate my job. I'm **thinking of quitting**.
- I **apologise for being** late.

GERUNDS IN STRUCTURES WITH VERBS

This structure can be used with passive forms:

- I **dream of** being awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- I **look forward to** being invited for an interview.
- We **keep on** being/getting told by our boss that we are not working hard enough. It's very annoying and I'm thinking of quitting soon.
- Young children **benefit from** being given clear instructions.
- Some children **worry about** being ostracised or bullied at school.
- We should all **insist on** being respected by others.
- Tourists are told to **guard against** being robbed in the street and having their smartphones or wallets stolen.

GERUNDS IN STRUCTURES WITH VERBS

Sometimes we can put a noun or an object pronoun between the verb and the preposition, and follow this with the **-ing** form:

- Governments sometimes change the law for the benefit of their citizens. For instance, legislation can be passed which **prevents primary-school pupils from accessing** certain parts of the internet.
- Although most of us claim to worry about dying from a preventable medical condition, few of us seek to alter our lifestyle. We could certainly **stop ourselves from suffering** from strokes and heart attacks if we took a few simple steps.
- We clearly need to **deter vicious and aggressive bullies from abusing** their partners physically and emotionally.

GERUNDS IN STRUCTURES WITH VERBS

Sometimes we can put a noun or object pronoun and the **-ing** form after a verb or verb structure:

- I have always **approved of** **teenagers** **becoming** as independent of their parents as possible.
- I **disapprove of** **young children** **staying up** late.
- I **look forward to** **you** **arriving**.
- I **object to** **people** **playing** loud music at night.
- I really **don't mind / hate / dislike** **them** **borrowing** my car.
- I **detest / can't stand** **people** **throwing** litter on the streets.
- I **appreciate** **you** **giving** me so much of your time.

GERUNDS

IN STRUCTURES WITH VERBS

Sometimes we can put a noun or object pronoun and the **-ing** form after a verb or verb structure:

- I don't **remember/recall/recollect** **her** **telling** me that she was engaged!
- I can't **understand** **people** **having** so many possessions.
- I **resented** **the boss** **offering** a promotion to a colleague who only joined the firm two months ago.
- The authorities can't **stop** **us** **(from)** **demonstrating** in the street.
- I'm **in favour of** **teenagers** **having to** do community service.
- **There's no point** **(in)** **me** **working** hard.
- **It's no use** **us** **complaining**.



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GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

Gerunds

THE PERFECT GERUND

EXPLANATION

- **GERUNDS** (**-ing** forms) are extremely common in English and have several uses.
- Errors with **GERUNDS** are very frequent in IELTS Speaking and Writing Tests. Candidates who can avoid these errors usually get higher grades.
- **GERUNDS** are also common in the IELTS Reading and Listening Tests.
- The **PERFECT GERUND** is a very complex structure which will impress the IELTS examiner.

PERFECT GERUNDS IN STRUCTURES WITH VERBS

After verbs with prepositions, we can use the perfect gerund to refer to things which definitely happened/finished in the past:

- The police **accused** him **of** **having murdered** a passer-by.
- I **apologise for** not **having recognised** you at the train station.
- I **worry about** not **having told** the truth to the police.
- The prisoners **protested/complained about** not **having been treated** fairly whilst in detention. (This is a passive form)

PERFECT GERUNDS IN STRUCTURES WITH ADJECTIVES

We can use the perfect gerund after prepositions which follow adjectives, to refer to things which definitely happened in the past:

- I was **afraid of** **having** upset or **annoyed** you.
- I am **proud of** **having** won the competition.
- I am **ashamed of** **having** had to lie to my parents.
- She was **livid/furious/angry about** **having** left her phone on the train.
- I am quite **happy about** **having** finished my university course.
- They are **worried about** not **having** completed the correct paperwork when they entered the country.
- I was **delighted about** **having** been chosen. (This is a passive form)
- I am **shocked at** not **having** been given a job. (This is a passive form)

PERFECT GERUNDS IN STRUCTURES WITH VERBS

After verbs which are followed by **-ing** forms, we can use the perfect gerund to refer to things which happened in the past:

- He **denied** **having been** in the area on the day of the incident.
- I don't **recall/remember/recollect** anybody **having invited** me.
- I don't **recall/remember/recollect** **having been** invited. (This is a passive form)
- I really **regret** **having left** the company.
- Some older people **detest/hate** **having been** famous when young.
- Personally, I **resent/mind** **having been lied to** by politicians in the past. Now, when I hear a political leader's speech, I find it almost impossible to believe a word. (This is a passive form)

PERFECT GERUNDS IN IELTS WRITING TASK 2 CONCLUSIONS

We can use a perfect gerund at the beginning of the **CONCLUSION** to an **IELTS Writing Task 2**:

- **After having explored** the arguments relating to the role of the public in fighting climate change, I have come to the realisation that we as individuals cannot shift responsibility entirely onto the authorities. (= **After exploring...**)
- **After having considered** the matter in some depth, I have rather reluctantly reached the conclusion that allowing unhappily-married couples to divorce is a necessary evil. (= **After considering...**)
- **After having discussed** both sides of the debate, I feel that it makes sense for us, as a society, to try to compromise. (= **After discussing...**)

PERFECT GERUNDS

IN IELTS WRITING TASK 2 CONCLUSIONS

We can use a perfect gerund at the beginning of the **CONCLUSION** to an **IELTS Writing Task 2**:

- **Having discussed** the merits and demerits of eco-tourism in detail, I have come to the conclusion that it does more harm than good. (= **After discussing...**)
- **Having outlined** the major causes of international terrorism and suggested several possible responses, I have to say that I am optimistic that this issue can be successfully tackled. (= **After outlining...**)
- **Having thought** about and **written** about both sides of the argument, it seems to me that the only way forward is through compromise and consensus. (= **After thinking and writing about...**)



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GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

Gerunds

WITH PREPOSITIONS AND CONNECTING WORDS

EXPLANATION

- **GERUNDS** (**-ing** forms) are extremely common in English and have several uses.
- Errors with **GERUNDS** are very frequent in IELTS Speaking and Writing Tests. Candidates who can avoid these errors usually get higher grades.
- **GERUNDS** are also common in the IELTS Reading and Listening Tests.
- They can be used with **prepositions, conjunctions** and other **connecting words**.

GERUNDS

FOLLOWING PREPOSITIONS AND CONNECTING WORDS

We can use **-ing** forms after many prepositions and connecting words:

- **Despite** **working** for the company for many years, he was dismissed.
- **In spite of** **encountering** major obstacles, those who leave the city and re-locate to the countryside rarely regret the move.
- **When** **sitting** exams, many students find it difficult to concentrate. This often has a negative impact on their final grade.
- **Whilst/While** **working**, some students are capable **of** **listening** to the radio. Others need to concentrate entirely **on** **studying**.
- **Before** **finishing** their Degree, many students start applying for jobs.
- **After** **having graduated**, some individuals struggle to decide what they would like to do. (This is an example of the perfect gerund)

GERUNDS

FOLLOWING PREPOSITIONS AND CONNECTING WORDS

- **On** arriving in a new country, many immigrants feel disorientated and lost. They tend to struggle with culture shock.
- It is true to say that many individuals can be racist **without** meaning or **wanting** to be.
- Personally, I am **against / opposed to** allowing children to use the internet unsupervised, though some are **in favour of** letting them do whatever they want online.
- The authorities have tried to deal with this **by** planning advertising campaigns and visits to schools.
- **By** working hard, you can achieve your goals and make your dreams come true.

GERUNDS

FOLLOWING PREPOSITIONS AND CONNECTING WORDS

- There are both **advantages and disadvantages to/of** **studying** a language in a classroom environment.
- People **get used to** **working** hard.
- **Besides** **being** a teacher, my wife also writes novels.
- **As well as** **harming** your eye-sight, spending too much time staring into a computer screen **instead of** **interacting** with others can have serious mental and emotional consequences.
- **Instead of** **complaining** about the system, citizens should vote for political parties which really reflect their views.
- **Rather than** **being** unemployed, a high proportion of eighteen-year-olds opt for voluntary work or travel.

GERUNDS

FOLLOWING PREPOSITIONS AND CONNECTING WORDS

Gerunds often follow prepositions which are used with adjectives:

- Many of us are **worried about** **having to** look after our elderly relatives.
- I was **ashamed of** **needing to** repeat one of the courses after failing it.
- I am **tired of** **getting up** so early every morning.
- I am **proud of** **being** who I am.
- I am quite **keen on** **moving** to another country.
- Firefighters are **trained in** **dealing** with emergency situations.
- I am really **happy about** **having won** the competition. (This is an example of the perfect gerund)



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GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

Gerunds IN CLAUSES

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EXPLANATION

- **GERUNDS** (**-ing** forms) are extremely common in English and have several uses.
- Errors with **GERUNDS** are very frequent in IELTS Speaking and Writing Tests. Candidates who can avoid these errors usually get higher grades.
- **GERUNDS** are also common in the IELTS Reading and Listening Tests.
- They can be used in **clauses**.

GERUNDS

IN PRESENT PARTICIPLE CLAUSES

We can often replace an active relative clause with an **-ing** form. This is called a participle clause and is useful in formal and academic writing:

- The people ~~(who are)~~ **waiting** to see the doctors need urgent medical attention.
- Those ~~(who are)~~ **living** in appalling conditions in shanty towns on the edges of some of our most prosperous cities deserve better.
- Most of the labourers ~~(who are)~~ **working** in the so-called 'black economy' are not paying taxes.

GERUNDS

IN PRESENT PARTICIPLE CLAUSES

- The illness (~~which is~~) **spreading** across the country has led to the deaths of hundreds of vulnerable individuals.
- The engineers and electricians (~~who were~~) **building** the factory went on strike because they had not received their wages.
- Scientists (~~who have been~~) **working** on a vaccine for malaria and (~~who have been~~) **carrying** out trials in parts of Southern Africa believe they may have made a breakthrough.
- Most of those (~~who will be~~) **building** the stadia and facilities for the forthcoming football tournament will be migrants.

GERUNDS

IN RELATIVE CLAUSES

An **-ing** form can be used to replace a relative clause to describe a second action which results from an earlier action:

- Temperatures will rise, **leading to** mass migration. (= ...which will lead to mass migration)
- The number of police officers has been cut, **resulting in** an increase in crime levels. (= ...which has resulted in an increase in crime levels)
- Massive shopping centres have been opened, **causing** smaller local shops to close. (= ... which has caused smaller shops to close)

GERUNDS

IN RELATIVE CLAUSES

An **-ing** form can be used to replace a relative clause to describe a second action which results from an earlier action:

- Governments ought to increase taxes on motorists, **forcing** them to pay more for petrol or diesel. (= ...which will force them to pay more for petrol or diesel)
- We should give children more free time, **enabling** them to play and develop their creativity. (= ...which will enable them to play)
- Many believe that the government should cut income tax, **allowing/permitting** individuals to spend more of their hard-earned wages. (= ...which will allow/permit individuals to spend more of their hard-earned wages)

GERUNDS

DESCRIBING CAUSAL RELATIONSHIPS

An **-ing** form can replace **as/since/because + subject + verb**:

- **Working** in the financial sector, he has earned a great deal of money.
(= **As/Because/Since** he has been working in the financial sector,...)
- **Living** in the countryside, I have a less stressful life than many I know.
(= **As/Because/Since** I live in the countryside,...)
- **Not knowing** much about the language or culture, she had to learn fast. (= **As/Because/Since** she did not know much about the language or culture,...)
- **Hoping** to find you, I went to your office earlier. (= **As/Because/Since** I hoped to find you,...)
- **Using** public transport so much, I realise how poor the service is. (= **As/Because/Since** I use public transport so much,...)

GERUNDS

DESCRIBING CAUSAL RELATIONSHIPS

In a similar way, we can use the perfect gerund when one action is followed by another action, or when there is a causal relationship:

- **Having considered** the issue in detail, I have reached the conclusion that prison is generally ineffective.
- **Having analysed** the question in some depth, I have come to the realisation that drastic steps must be taken to avert the looming ecological crisis.
- **Having studied** languages for years, I feel I am in a position to give advice to other would-be linguists.
- **Having been bullied** at school, I can appreciate how traumatised you must be. (This is a passive form)

GERUNDS AS ADJECTIVES

An **-ing** form can be used as an adjective. This adjective form can also be expressed as a relative clause:

- **A failing/struggling economy** (= an economy which is failing/struggling)
- **Rising/falling temperatures** (= temperatures which are rising/falling)
- **Striking/hard-working teachers** (= teachers who are striking/working hard)
- **A continuing dispute** (= a dispute which is continuing)
- **Starving refugees** (= refugees who are starving)



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GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

Gerunds

FOLLOWING VERBS

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EXPLANATION

- **GERUNDS** (**-ing** forms) are extremely common in English and have several uses.
- Errors with **GERUNDS** are very frequent in IELTS Speaking and Writing Tests. Candidates who can avoid these errors usually get higher grades.
- **GERUNDS** are also common in the IELTS Reading and Listening Tests.
- They can be used in many **two-verb structures**.

GERUNDS FOLLOWING VERBS

Gerunds can be used after many verbs:

- cannot stand; cannot bear; detest; hate; dread; loathe; dislike; resent; do not mind; object to; like; love; enjoy; prefer
- consider; find; imagine; justify; forget; remember; recall; recollect; accept; tolerate
- admit; deny; discuss; debate; mention; suggest; recommend
- start; stop; finish; keep; continue; carry on
- risk; try; resort to; practise
- miss; avoid; resist; need
- entail; include; involve; mean
- spend; waste; be worth; there's no point

GERUNDS FOLLOWING VERBS

FEELINGS

- I really **cannot stand** **listening** to bigots and racists.
- Personally, when in a shopping centre, I **cannot bear** **having to listen to** the terrible piped music which they constantly broadcast.
- It seems unfair that there is no alternative way of assessing people who **detest/hate** **doing** exams.
- Some people **dread** **coming** face-to-face with a snake or a spider.
- Many adolescents appear to **loathe/dislike** **getting up** early in the morning.
- I **resent** **having to** study so much.
- Many adolescents **resent** **being told** how to behave by their parents.
(This is a passive form)

GERUNDS FOLLOWING VERBS

FEELINGS

- Married couples who decide to separate sometimes **regret** **breaking up**.
- Although I **don't mind** **getting up** early from time to time, I would struggle to do it on a daily basis.
- Personally speaking, I **do not object to** **collaborating** with fellow-students.
- Few of us **like/love** **doing** household chores like ironing and washing dishes.
- I certainly didn't **enjoy** **sitting** in a smelly place for six hours!
- Many people **prefer** **cycling** to work rather than taking the bus.

GERUNDS FOLLOWING VERBS MENTAL PROCESSES

- Most of those living in poorer regions would **consider** **moving**.
- Some children **find** **sharing** their toys difficult.
- Many young people simply cannot **imagine** **getting** a well-paid job.
- The terrible nature of the current situation **justifies** **taking** drastic steps.
- I'll never **forget** **sky-diving** for the first time.
- I cannot **recall/remember/recollect** **meeting** her.
- We should not **tolerate/accept** **cheating** in exams.

GERUNDS FOLLOWING VERBS

COMMUNICATION

- Criminals who **admit committing** a crime should be given lighter sentences than those who claim to be innocent.
- Many athletes **deny taking** performance-enhancing drugs, even when there is considerable evidence to suggest that they have.
- Experts have **discussed/debated giving** older workers the option to continue in employment beyond the age of retirement.
- I wish you had **mentioned borrowing** my bike. I spent ages looking for it.
- Some experts have **suggested making** it illegal for anyone under the age of sixteen to use the internet.
- Most experts **recommend reducing** the intake of fats and sugars.

GERUNDS FOLLOWING VERBS TIME

- Unfortunately, during the meeting I **started** **feeling** unwell.
- We need to **stop** **destroying** the most beautiful parts of our planet in our quest for oil and gas.
- People who **finish** **working** late at night often find it hard to sleep.
- I have tremendous admiration for those defenders of human rights who **keep** / **continue** / **carry on** **fighting** for others' liberty, despite the immense costs to themselves.

GERUNDS FOLLOWING VERBS

BEHAVIOUR

- Although nuclear power seems to have benefits, I believe that we cannot **risk having** another accident like the ones at Chernobyl and Fukushima.
- Employers who fail to find adequately qualified workers in their own country often **try recruiting** staff from abroad.
- It is possible to sympathise with a young athlete who, believing that all her competitors are cheating, **resorts to injecting** performance-enhancing steroids.
- As part of their training course, pilots have to **practise flying** in a simulator for up to a thousand hours.

GERUNDS FOLLOWING VERBS

REACTION

- Those who have been sent to prison often **miss spending** time with their family and friends more than anything else.
- Many employees **avoid doing** shift-work whenever possible.
- People who cannot **resist stealing** things from shops probably have a medical condition which needs treating.
- There is little doubt that most adults **need educating** about basic first aid. If confronted with a heart-attack victim in the street, many of us would have little or no idea what to do.

GERUNDS FOLLOWING VERBS

CONNECTION AND INCLUSION

- For anyone whose job **entails** **sitting** for long periods of time, physical fitness can be a real problem.
- Your responsibilities would **include** **dealing with** customer complaints and **liaising** with other members of staff.
- The work of a nurse **involves** **taking care** of vulnerable patients.
- Tackling the problem of knife-crime might **mean** **sending** lots of young adults to prison.

GERUNDS A COUPLE OF SPECIAL CASES

TO SPEND/WASTE AND TO BE WORTH AND NO POINT

- The government regularly **spends** vast amounts of money fighting crime and paying police officers.
- Most of us **spend** large periods of our lives trying to find happiness.
- I **wasted** ages looking for that book
- It is **worth** mentioning/noting that an increasing number of teens see success in terms of financial gain rather than self-development.
- It is **worth** re-iterating/emphasising/repeating the fact that as long as nuclear weapons exist, we all face the prospect of annihilation.
- It is **worth** considering the proposal/suggestion that students should be made to stay in full-time education until they manage to get a job.
- **There's no point** getting annoyed.



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PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Look at the following sentences. Each sentence contains a missing verb in the –ing form. Try to replace it:

1. The authorities spend a great deal of money de_____ with petty crime.
2. Many young people simply cannot imagine ge_____ a well-paid job.
3. Most experts recommend reducing the intake of fats and sugars.
4. Before the war, the amount of money spent on military weapons had been fa_____.
5. By wo_____ incredibly hard, it is possible to achieve almost anything.
6. Children st_____ in secondary education often learn about things which have no relevance to their daily lives.
7. Many addicts would love to give up sm_____ cigarettes.
8. Despite wo_____ for the company for many years, he was dismissed.
9. Doctors recommend not e_____ too much fatty, salty or sugary food.
10. During the whole period, the number of fridge-freezers sold kept on fa_____ but the number of vacuum-cleaners purchased went on ri_____.

ANSWERS

1. The authorities spend a great deal of money **dealing** with petty crime.
2. Many young people simply cannot imagine **getting** a well-paid job.
3. Most experts recommend **reducing** the intake of fats and sugars.
4. Before the war, the amount of money spent on military weapons had been **falling**.
5. By **working** incredibly hard, it is possible to achieve almost anything.
6. Children **studying** in secondary education often learn about things which have no relevance to their daily lives.
7. Many addicts would love to give up **smoking** cigarettes.
8. Despite **working** for the company for many years, he was dismissed.
9. Doctors recommend not **eating** too much fatty, salty or sugary food.
10. During the whole period, the number of fridge-freezers sold kept on **falling** but the number of vacuum-cleaners purchased went on **rising**.

(Now decide why the –ing form has been used in each sentence)

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Look at the following sentences. Each sentence contains a missing verb in the –ing form. Try to replace it:

1. Before the financial crash, the economy had been im_____.
2. The people wa_____ to see the doctors need urgent medical attention.
3. Most of those li_____ in poorer regions would consider mo_____.
4. Few students like/enjoy b_____ told what to do by tutors.
5. The situation was im_____.
6. The weather af_____ large parts of the country is extremely unusual for this time of year.
7. For many addicts, gi_____ up sm_____ is incredibly difficult.
8. The government regularly spends vast amounts of money fi_____ crime and pa_____ police officers.

ANSWERS

1. Before the financial crash, the economy had been **improving**.
2. The people **waiting** to see the doctors need urgent medical attention.
3. Most of those **living** in poorer regions would consider **moving**.
4. Few students like/enjoy **being** told what to do by tutors.
5. The situation was **improving**.
6. The weather **affecting** large parts of the country is extremely unusual for this time of year.
7. For many addicts, **giving** up **smoking** is incredibly difficult.
8. The government regularly spends vast amounts of money **fighting** crime and **paying** police officers.

(Now decide why the –ing form has been used in each sentence)

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Look at the following sentences. Each sentence contains a missing verb in the –ing form. Try to replace it:

1. The illness spr_____ across the country has led to the deaths of hundreds of vulnerable individuals.
2. For some people, li_____ in the countryside is far superior to li_____ in a metropolitan area.
3. The population has been dec_____ for the past few decades.
4. Despite t_____ extremely hard, many students simply do not have the academic ability to get into a top university.
5. It is true to say that many individuals can be racist without me_____ to be.
6. The statistical information b_____ discussed relates to climate change.
7. The temperature is ri_____.
8. Li_____ in a large urban area has its drawbacks.
9. Many poorer people have thought about e_____.

ANSWERS

1. The illness **spreading** across the country has led to the deaths of hundreds of vulnerable individuals.
2. For some people, **living** in the countryside is far superior to **living** in a metropolitan area.
3. The population has been **declining** for the past few decades.
4. Despite **trying** extremely hard, many students simply do not have the academic ability to get into a top university.
5. It is true to say that many individuals can be racist without **meaning** to be.
6. The statistical information **being** discussed relates to climate change.
7. The temperature is **rising**.
8. **Living** in a large urban area has its drawbacks.
9. Many poorer people have thought about **emigrating**.

(Now decide why the –ing form has been used in each sentence)

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Look at the following sentences. Each sentence contains a missing verb in the –ing form. Try to replace it:

1. Most of us spend large periods of our lives tr_____ to find happiness.
2. Optimists look forward to li_____ in a better world in the future.
3. Some academically-minded schoolchildren actually enjoy st_____.
4. The authorities have tried to deal with this by pl_____ advertising campaigns and visits to schools.
5. The doctors as_____ for a pay rise enjoy a lot of public support.
6. The engineers and electricians bu_____ the factory went on strike because they had not received their wages.
7. Many people have thought about le_____ the country and mo_____ to a completely different part of the globe.
8. The level went/kept on ri_____ over the whole period.
9. For most of us, it is incredibly difficult to become good at something without pr_____ for ages.

ANSWERS

1. Most of us spend large periods of our lives **trying** to find happiness.
2. Optimists look forward to **living** in a better world in the future.
3. Some academically-minded schoolchildren actually enjoy **studying**.
4. The authorities have tried to deal with this by **planning** advertising campaigns and visits to schools.
5. The doctors **asking** for a pay rise enjoy a lot of public support.
6. The engineers and electricians **building** the factory went on strike because they had not received their wages.
7. Many people have thought about **leaving** the country and moving to a completely different part of the globe.
8. The level went/kept on **rising** over the whole period.
9. For most of us, it is incredibly difficult to become good at something without **practising** for ages.

(Now decide why the –ing form has been used in each sentence)

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Look at the following sentences. Each sentence contains a missing verb in the –ing form. Try to replace it:

1. The number of residents who live in suburban areas is in_____.
2. Wo_____ in the education sector can lead to a great deal of stress.
3. Most people in western countries look forward to s_____ their families at Christmas.
4. Most politicians deny ta_____ bribes and deny b_____ corrupt.
5. The situation is wo_____.
6. T_____ to achieve a better quality of life for your children seems a perfectly normal thing to do.
7. Wa_____ a higher standard of living is certainly not a crime.
8. Wo_____ in heavy industry can have serious health implications.
9. Many athletes have denied ta_____ performance-enhancing drugs.

ANSWERS

1. The number of residents who live in suburban areas is **increasing**.
2. **Working** in the education sector can lead to a great deal of stress.
3. Most people in western countries look forward to **seeing** their families at Christmas.
4. Most politicians deny **taking** bribes and deny **being** corrupt.
5. The situation is **worsening**.
6. **Trying** to achieve a better quality of life for your children seems a perfectly normal thing to do.
7. **Wanting** a higher standard of living is certainly not a crime.
8. **Working** in heavy industry can have serious health implications.
9. Many athletes have denied **taking** performance-enhancing drugs.

(Now decide why the –ing form has been used in each sentence)

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

Complete the following sentences by adding the -ing form of the verb in brackets:

EXAMPLE: I have been _____ (try) really hard to learn Spanish.

ANSWER: I have been **trying** really hard to learn Spanish.

1. _____ (swim) is my favourite free-time activity.
2. I hate _____ (agree) with you but, on this occasion, you are probably right.
3. Although I am _____ (begin) to understand chess a bit, I still find it rather confusing.
4. _____ (instil) confidence in young people is one of the key aims of educators.
5. The crime of _____ (stab) has become increasingly common of late.
6. I am _____ (blame) you for everything which has gone wrong.

ANSWERS

1. **Swimming** is my favourite free-time activity.
2. I hate **agreeing** with you but, on this occasion, you are probably right.
3. Although I am **beginning** to understand chess a bit, I still find it rather confusing.
4. **Instilling** confidence in young people is one of the key aims of educators.
5. The crime of **stabbing** has become increasingly common of late
6. I am **blaming** you for everything which has gone wrong.