

GERUNDS

key property:	verbal noun
meaning:	(the act of) <u>X-ing</u>
example:	(I like) <u>swimming</u>
key confusions:	(i) in English, they look like participles (ii) in Latin, they look like gerundives
formation:	present stem + andum, endum, endum or iendum
declension:	NOM. amare ACC. amare / amandum* GEN. amandi DAT. amando ABL. amando

1. main use: “the act of” (in any case, but especially gen. and abl.)

examples: I admire the art of writing well
by killing the enemy, we were victorious
he pays attention to exercising (*more rare*)

2. ad purpose clause: ad + gerund (intrans vbs only), e.g. ad dormiendum

key points: (i) gerunds can't usually take objects (as a get-around, ad + noun + gerundive construction can be used. See 'gerundival attraction').
(ii) * amandum is exclusively reserved for ad purpose clauses (whereas amare is used for 'I like swimming')

GERUNDIVES

key properties:	(i) verbal adjective (iii) passive (iv) implies obligation
meaning:	(literally) <u>needing to be X-ed</u>
example:	the ' <u>needing-to-be-cooked</u> ' dinner or 'the dinner which ought to be cooked'
key confusions:	(i) English does not have a gerundive (ii) In Latin, gerundives <i>sometimes</i> look like gerunds
formation:	present stem + andus, endus, endus or iendus
declension:	like bonus, a, um
<u>1. main use:</u>	expressing a need or obligation
example:	'the dinner is needing to be cooked by me' or 'I must cook the dinner'
key points:	(i) if an agent is expressed, it is in the <u>dative</u> (in contrast to other passive constructions, which use an ablative) i.e. 'the dinner is needing to be cooked (<i>lit</i>) <u>to</u> me' (ii) dative of the agent never uses a preposition (in contrast to the ablative of the agent) (iii) if the verb already takes the dative, then the ablative of the agent may instead be used for clarity.

2. gerundival attraction:

Gerunds cannot usually take objects.

e.g. 'the art of writing a letter' is not possible with a gerund.

However, as a get-around the gerundive may instead be used in agreement with a noun.

The noun replaces the gerund and adopts the same case that the gerund would have had. The gerundive 'tacks on' in agreement. This process is called **gerundival attraction**.

Instead of saying 'the art of writing a letter' (~~ars epistulam scribendi~~), Latin says 'the art of a letter *needing to be written*' (ars epistulae scribendae)

N.B. The sense of obligation particular to gerundives is effectively lost in such instances because the gerundive is being used where the sense required a gerund.

Similarly, the '**ad purpose clause**' construction can undergo gerundival attraction whenever a transitive verb is required in the expression. 'ad' takes a *noun in the accusative* (replacing a gerund) with the *gerundive* in agreement.

e.g. 'I attacked the city (*lit*) with a view to (= ad) the citizens *needing to be killed*

urbem oppugnavi ad cives necandos (in good Eng. = "I attacked the city to kill the citizens")

However, gerunds **can** take objects to avoid the jangling sound of –arum followed by –arum or –orum followed by –orum (e.g. ~~ars epistularum scribendarum~~ is written **ars epistulas scribendi**) **or** when the 'noun' in the phrase is a neuter pronoun (e.g. ~~ars eius scribendi~~ is written **ars id scribendi**)

3. impersonal passive: to express obligation when there is no patient

e.g. 'dormiendum est nobis'

there is no 'person' or 'thing' which needs to be slept
– sleeping in general needs to happen!

4. certain idioms: curo + acc + gerundive

'I take care of X getting Y-ed'

e.g. 'I take care of the temple getting built'

gerunds and gerundives practice

1. I want to learn the art of speaking wisely.
2. Those words must be heard by the citizens.
3. The boy is eager to win.
4. You must wait here, slave.
5. The old man went out in order to buy food.
6. By working I became rich.
7. I wrote a letter in order to complain.
8. This book must be thrown into the fire.
9. The boys will have to run as quickly as possible.
10. We sent soldiers to attack the city.

more gerunds and gerundives practice

1. By reading books young men become wiser.
2. The walls of the city must be repaired.
3. I must remain here; the rest must cross the lake.
4. An opportunity of buying a country-house has occurred at last.
5. You have not learnt the art of writing letters.
6. The thief had to give the money back to the old man.
7. The old man was very desirous of seeing his son.
8. We shall cross the river by building a bridge.
9. Three cohorts had been sent to defend the citadel.
10. We must resist this disgraceful plan.
11. The cities which have revolted ought to be besieged.
12. Didn't they say that in order to injure us?
13. We ought to depart at once.
14. Brutus ought to forgive his sons.
15. A chance to do this will never occur again.
16. By learning letters we are able to enjoy reading.
17. We shall need to learn a new language.
18. The place seemed suitable for pitching camp.
19. We have done this for the sake of helping our friends.
20. By obeying the laws we set (give) a good example to others.