

Table Of Contents:

- [Spelling rules](#)

Gerunds are words that has an **-ing** ending. Although they look like present participles, they perform [specific functions](#) in a sentence.

Note that gerunds are formed with [verbs](#) but act as [nouns](#). And, because they act like nouns, you can use them anywhere that a noun would normally go in a sentence.

Gerunds and gerund phrases often act as [subjects](#) in the sentence:

- **Swimming** is good for you. (*this sounds better than 'To swim is good for you'*).
- **Flying** is faster than walking.
- **Reading** books is a good way to learn more. (*a gerund phrase*).

To form Gerunds, add **'-ing'** to the base form of the verb:

- *To play* → *playing*
- *To hide* → *hiding*
- *To swim* → *swimming*

Spelling rules

Regular verbs with a silent **'-e'** at the end: change the **'-e'** to **'-ing'**:

- *To choose* → *choosing*
- *To glide* → *gliding*

Verbs with **'-ie'** at the end: change **'-ie'** to **'-ying'**:

- *To lie* → *lying*
- *To tie* → *tying*

If the verb ends in a *consonant + vowel + consonant* and the final syllable is stressed, double the last consonant and add **'-ing'**:

- *To for'get* → *forgetting*
- *To 'swim* → *swimming*

But don't do that with '-x' or '-w':

- *To relax* → *relaxing*
- *To blow* → *blowing*

Learn more about gerund and gerund phrases in our video:

Gerunds and gerund phrases can also be used as direct or indirect objects, objects of prepositions, and predicate nouns. You can learn more about this here:

[Gerund: Functions in a Sentence](#)