

Syntactic functions of the Gerund

1. subject

***Running** makes you healthy*

*It's no use **running** so fast, we have plenty of time left*

2. predicative

*The only remedy for this situation is **talking** to your partner*

3. part of the compound verbal predicate

- verbs denoting modality: *I intend **seeing** him today*
- verbs denoting the beginning, duration and finishing of the action: *She began **laughing***

4. object

*I enjoy **skiing**.*

*Do you mind **his visiting** us today?*

5. attribute (is preceded by a preposition)

*She made an effort **of seeing** something in the dark.*

6. adverbial modifier

- time: ***After leaving** the house she remembered about the open window.*
- manner (by, in): *She opened the door **by pushing** it hard. He spent this day **in packing** things.*
- attendant circumstances (without): *You can't be sure **without asking** him.*
- purpose (for): *This table is used **for cooking**.*
- condition (without): *He came **without asking** permission.*
- cause (for, for fear of, owing to): *She felt better **for having taken** all her medicine.*
- concession (despite, in spite of): ***In spite of being busy**, she found time to talk to him.*

Types of the Gerund

Indefinite active

writing

Perfect active

having written

Indefinite passive

being written

Perfect passive

having been written