

Consult the English Oracle

Gerunds and Present Participles

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The differences between gerunds and present participle versions of verbs can be very confusing. Gerunds are the nominal forms of verbs ending in *-ing* and are used to describe actions, but not actually do them. Present participles, on the other hand, are adjectival forms of verbs, which also end in *-ing*. So, in other words, an *-ing* word used as a noun is a gerund, and an *-ing* word used as an adjective is a present participle. Present participles are also used in continuous (progressive) tenses to show a continuous action. Note that *-ing* words that denote physical or unspecified objects, like **nothing** and **something**, are plain pronouns not gerunds (i.e. if the root isn't a verb it usually can't be a gerund or present participle). Note that gerunds can only take the singular form (there are no plural gerunds). In order to see the distinction between the present participles and gerunds, study the tables below, which show their respective uses.

It is a gerund when it is used:



By
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| Uses | Sample Sentence |
|--|--|
| As a verb doing the work of a noun (verbal noun) | The best surfing is in Hawaii. |
| As the object of an action <i>verb</i> . | I often <i>go</i> surfing . |
| As the subject of the sentence. | Surfing is great fun. |
| After or together with a <i>preposition</i> . | We were tired <i>after</i> surfing all day. |
| After a <i>phrasal verb</i> . | But we still <i>carried on</i> surfing . |

It is a present participle when it is used:

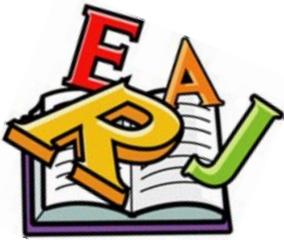
| Uses | Sample Sentence |
|--|--|
| After a <i>noun</i> to say what is being done. | I saw a <i>superstar</i> surfing while I was there. |
| After a <i>verb</i> . | He <i>heard</i> surfing here was good. |
| As an adjective. | That surfing superstar is called Brad. |
| To form the continuous/progressive tense. | He was surfing all day. |
| To show two things done at the same time. | He was surfing and shouting to his friends. |
| Immediately after the <i>subject</i> . | <i>People</i> surfing at night are crazy. |

A verb that comes immediately after a preposition must take the gerund form.



HOW TO STUDY ENGLISH EFFECTIVELY

Here are some tips for success to help you as you study English.



Study English Every Day

It's important to study English every day. However, don't overdo it! Study for thirty minutes every day instead of two hours once a week. Short and steady practice is much better for learning than long periods on an irregular basis. This habit of studying English every day will keep the English in your brain fresh.

Using Different Methods to Learn

Don't just use one way to study English. Try to use a variety of methods which will use all the parts of your brain (multiple intelligences). For example, if you are learning new vocabulary, create a word map, describe a picture, make a list and study it, type out the words five times. All of these methods together help to reinforce your learning.



Study English by Finding some Friends

There is nothing like having a few friends to study English together. You can practice the exercises together, have conversations together (in English!), and, as you study English together, help each other with exercises you may not understand.



Choosing Topics that Interest You

One of the most important things to do is to study English using topics that you like. This will motivate you because you will also be learning about a topic you find interesting while you study English.



Adapted from: http://esl.about.com/od/intermediateenglish/a/study_english.htm

By
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Learning and Studying



Writing helps clarify your thinking

You don't really know what you think until you write it.



Writing on a regular basis makes you a better writer

Like anything else, the more you practice, the better you get.



Deadlines can be helpful

They can give you the energy and concentration you need to write.



Length limits are good for your style

Eliminating wordiness improves your emphasis and impact.



Good writing is edited writing

You never outgrow your need for a good editor.



Letting your first draft "rest," will help you edit it more effectively

Certain problems become obvious if you allow time to pass between drafting and editing.



Some stages of writing are inefficient and sloppy

Accepting the imperfection of the first draft is a wonderful freedom.



Making it fun keeps it fresh

As with most things, a column on business writing doesn't need to be dry and boring.



Writing counts

Writing is a reflection of your personality and style, a statement of your professional standards. It counts as much as anything else you do.



Fascinating Facts about Manila



1. **The official language of Manila is called Tagalog**, which includes vocabulary and grammar borrowed from other languages, such as Arabic, Chinese, Spanish and Sanskrit. It is spoken mostly in the capital, but also in the southern parts of Luzon, on the islands of Lubag, Marinduque and the Northern and Eastern parts of Mindoro. Most of the people in Manila speak English, which they learn from an early age at school.
2. **Manila is located on the Southern part of Luzon** – the biggest island among the 7,000 that the Philippines consists of.
3. **The most popular sport in Manila is basketball**. The city has its professional team and professional league. The games take place at the Rizal Memorial Stadium and Araneta Coliseum.
4. **The first Filipino saint came from Manila**. His name was Lorenzo Ruiz. He was executed in Japan for refusing to renounce Christianity.
5. **Britain ruled Manila for 2 years**. In 1762 the British invaded the city and ruled it for 2 years. Their power didn't spread outside of Manila's borders. The occupation happened as a result of the Seven Years War with France and ended with the signing of the treaty in 1764.
6. **Manila's City Hall looks like a coffin with a cross when viewed from above**. It was designed to look like a shield of the Knights Templar, but one can't help but to think of something else when seeing it for the first time.
7. **There are secret tunnels underneath the city**. They run under the Makati City and the Global City in Taguig and go 3.5 meters deep underground. Another tunnel, called Fort Bonifacio Tunnel, runs under the Megaworld. There are four entrances leading to it: across C5, near East Rembo, at Anapola Street and on Morning Glory Street. The construction of the tunnel started in 1900. At the beginning it served to help transport food, medicine and other military supplies. During World War II it served as a hiding spot for Japanese officials. In 1995 the tunnel was closed, but in 2012 the Bases Conversion and Development Agency announced its plans for restoring the tunnel.
8. **Tomas Claudio Boulevard was named after the only Filipino victim of the First World War**. Claudio was a young man that moved to the US in order to look for a good job and better life. After a couple of years of living there he decided to enlist in the US army. He was sent to fight Germans in Europe after a short while. He died in a battle on June 28th 1918. To honour him the government decided to name one of the streets in Manila after him.
9. **Manila took its name from a flower**. The folk story says that beautiful flowers once grew outside of the walls of a newly built city called Intramuros. The plant bloomed in white and yellow and swayed in the wind like it was saying good bye or hello to the people visiting the river, where they grew. The locals started to call the plant Nilad. The story says that one day Spaniards saw a woman at a local market, arranging the flowers in the basket and asked her where she picked them from. The woman couldn't really explain, so she said 'Sa Intramuros, sa mga may Nilad' (in Intramuros, the place where there are Nilads). Since then the locals have been describing the place as 'Sa may Nilad' and after a while everyone came to know the place as 'Sa Maynila' or Manila.



What do the little recycling symbols that you see on some plastic items mean. How many different symbols are there?

A typical symbol is shown here. This one is from the lid of a kitchen container. There are seven of these symbols currently in use, each one identifying a different type of plastic. These types of plastic can be found in the following list:

-  olyethylene terephthalate (**PET**)
-  High-density polyethylene (**HDPE**)
-  Polyvinyl chloride (**PVC**)
-  Low-density polyethylene (**LDPE**)
-  Polypropylene (**PP**)
-  Polystyrene (**PS**)
-  Resins, like acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (**ABS**)



PET is most commonly seen in plastic soda bottles and Mylar film. **HDPE** is what milk jugs are made of, and is also used in things like plastic gas cans. **PVC** is the base for any form of vinyl (e.g. seat covers), as well as many soft toys. **LDPE** is found in things like plastic food containers. The difference between HDPE and LDPE is that LDPE is softer, more flexible and melts at a lower temperature than HDPE. **PP** is a lightweight plastic and has a relatively high melting point -- it is used in things like luggage and plastic trim in cars, as well as food containers. **PS** is commonly known by the Styrofoam brand name and is used in everything from coffee cups to coolers.

These symbols only scratch the surface of the hundreds of different types of plastics around you. Think about it for a second and you can understand the variety of plastics in use today: nylon, polyurethane, polyurethane foam, all sorts of non-melting plastics.

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