-Ing Forms as Nouns

-Ing forms of verbs can be used as nouns. As a result, they can function as subjects and objects of verbs and prepositions. Look at the following -ing forms functioning as the subject of the sentence:

Examples: Dancing is a great exercise.

Overeating can be dangerous to your health.

Look at these examples where the -ing forms function as the object of the verb:

Examples: My friends and I love dancing on Saturday nights.

We finished studying late last night.

These examples that follow show the -ing form as the object of a preposition.

Examples: He thought about staying home.

Instead of going to the movies, we decided to stay home.

Exercises - Working in pairs, use the following gerunds in sentences either as subjects or objects of verbs or prepositions.

1. getting

2. living

3. having

4. swimming
5. learning

6. cooking

7. playing

8. asking

9. doing

10. advertising

Exercise – Identify how each gerund in your examples was used. Write Subject, Object of verb, Object of preposition after each number below.

1. _______________ 6. _______________

2. _______________ 7. _______________

3. _______________ 8. _______________

4. _______________ 9. _______________

5. _______________ 10. _______________

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