

A **gerund** is a noun made from a verb by adding "-ing." The **gerund** form of the verb "read" is "reading." You can use a **gerund** as the subject, the complement, or the object of a sentence. Examples: Reading helps you learn English (englishpage.com).

Gerunds function as **nouns**. Thus, gerunds will be **subjects**, **subject complements**, **direct objects**, **indirect objects**, and **objects of prepositions**. Present participles, on the other hand, complete progressive verbs or act as **modifiers**.

Read these examples of *gerunds*:

- Since Francisco was five years old, **swimming** has been his passion.
 - **Swimming** = subject of the verb *has been*.
- Francisco's first love is **swimming**.
 - **Swimming** = subject complement of the verb *is*.
- Francisco enjoys **swimming** more than spending time with his girlfriend Diana.
 - **Swimming** = direct object of the verb *enjoys*.
- Francisco gives **swimming** all of his energy and time.
 - **Swimming** = indirect object of the verb *gives*.
- When Francisco wore dive fins to class, everyone knew that he was devoted to **swimming**.
 - **Swimming** = object of the preposition *to*.

These *ing* words are examples of *present participles*:

- One day last summer, Francisco and his coach were **swimming** at Daytona Beach.
 - **Swimming** = present participle completing the past progressive verb *were swimming*.
- A Great White shark ate Francisco's **swimming** coach.
 - **Swimming** = present participle modifying *coach*.
- Now Francisco practices his sport in safe **swimming** pools.
 - **Swimming** = present participle modifying *pools*.