

for CHAPTER 3: THE PHRASE pages 68–69

Gerunds and Gerund Phrases

3g. A **gerund** is a verb form ending in *-ing* that is used as a noun.

EXAMPLE Mario places great importance on **listening**.

3h. A **gerund phrase** consists of a gerund and its modifiers and complements. The entire phrase is used as a noun.

EXAMPLE Their highest priority is **serving customers efficiently and courteously**.

EXERCISE A Underline the gerund or gerund phrase in each of the following sentences. Then, identify its function in the sentence by writing, on the line provided, *S* for *subject*, *PN* for *predicate nominative*, *DO* for *direct object*, *IO* for *indirect object*, or *OP* for *object of a preposition*.

Example OP 1. During the summer Mae earns money by mowing people's lawns.

- _____ 1. One of the most exciting experiences my family ever had was adopting my baby brother.
- _____ 2. Translating from Chinese to English is a rare and valuable skill.
- _____ 3. The coach was praised for treating each of her players with respect.
- _____ 4. Emilio taught Cajun cooking in an adult education class.
- _____ 5. Tanya, a conscientious person, gives caring for her new puppy top priority.

EXERCISE B On the line provided, write a sentence using each of the following gerunds in a gerund phrase. Follow the instructions in parentheses.

Example 1. *preparing* (Use the gerund phrase as an object of a preposition.) Leslie devoted the evening to preparing her presentation.

6. *painting* (Use the gerund phrase as a subject.) _____
7. *complaining* (Use the gerund phrase as a predicate nominative.) _____
8. *swimming* (Use the gerund phrase as a direct object.) _____
9. *saving* (Use the gerund phrase as an object of a preposition.) _____
10. *caring* (Use the gerund phrase as an indirect object.) _____