Gerunds

What is a gerund?

A gerund is a noun made from a verb. To form a gerund, add -ing to the base of a verb.

   - **Cooking** is my hobby. I like **eating** too.

#1. **Gerund as Subject**

   Kayaking involves some risks.

   Swimming builds endurance.

   Not inviting him will cause resentment.

#2. **Gerund as Object**

   They enjoy **kayaking.**

   I went **swimming.**

   We don't advise **not inviting** him.

#3. **Gerund as Subject Complement**   #4. **Gerund as Object Complement**

   (phrases that describe the subject)   (phrases that describe the object)

   My sport is **skiing.**   He spends time **reading.**

   His problem is **not exercising.**   She found him **not working.**

#5. **Gerund as Object of a Preposition**

   She insists **on going out** every weekend.

   He's accustomed **to giving** parties.

   They have a reason **for not inviting** Michael.

- formal

#6. **Possessive + Gerund**

                                  possessive   gerund

Bob and Helen worry about

	Emily's			
	her		having	so few friends.
	the children's			
	their			

* Usage note: In conversation, native speakers often use a name or object pronoun before a gerund.

   Instead of **"Pete's dominating** every conversation bothers me" you can say

      "I don't like **Pete dominating** every conversation."

#7. **Active and Passive Gerunds**

	Active Gerunds	Passive Gerunds
Simple (without a past participle)	**Inviting** them to her wedding was a nice gesture on her part.	**Being invited** to her wedding was a great surprise to them.
Past (*having* + past participle)	**Having invited** them to her wedding made her feel good.	**Having been invited** to her wedding is a fond memory for them.

BE CAREFUL! Don't confuse gerunds with verbs in the progressive form or with present participles (*-ing)* used as adjectives or adverb phrases.

   I've been **making** friends at work. _____

   Mary is enrolled in a **cooking** class. _____

   Walking on the beach, I wondered why she was angry at me. _____

adj. 1. naive /naɪ ˈiːv/ – d

∨ 2. coincide – f

noun 3. context – g

4. catching up on – e

noun 5. counterpart – a

adj 6. vulnerable – c

idiom – 7. spare your feelings h

8. meander – b