Lesson 4: Gerunds

1. A gerund acts as a noun and can be used:
   i. before a verb (as a subject)
      • Swimming is suitable for everyone.
   ii. after a verb (as an object)
      • For the sake of good health, you need to start jogging every day.
   iii. after a preposition (as an object)
      • Peter is fond of playing tennis.

2. We use a gerund with the following prepositions to talk about different things.

   1. by: the way of doing something
      I built up my muscles by going to the gym every day.

   2. for: the use of something
      I have a stack of towels for wiping my sweat.

   3. before or after: the time of doing something
      I was very slim before starting sumo. Now, after becoming a sumo wrestler, I've been gaining weight every day.

We can put a gerund after these prepositions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preposition</th>
<th>Gerund</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>by</td>
<td>taking a plane</td>
<td>We went to Osaka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for</td>
<td>drying your hair quickly</td>
<td>A hair dryer is used</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>before</td>
<td>playing basketball</td>
<td>He finished his homework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>after</td>
<td>swimming for a whole morning</td>
<td>We were exhausted</td>
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</table>
Exercise 1

Complete the sentences with a gerund. The verbs in the box below may help you.

make  tell  chew  play  search  shop  paint  rain
learn  smoke  take  go  travel  have  sightsee

1. Please help me ___________________ the new book.

2. ___________________ is one of the causes of landslide.

3. Don’t you know ___________________ can cause many disease.

4. They don’t like ___________________ to the party.

5. My grandma prefers ___________________ a new watch as her birthday present.

6. I hate ___________________ any written test.

7. Don’t keep ___________________ noise in the library.

8. They suggested ___________________ the videotape in the banquet.


10. The girls went ___________________ yesterday.

11. ___________________ a foreign language is hard work.

12. John went ___________________ with his friend when he was in Japan.

13. We all believe in ___________________ the truth.

14. Joey is very keen on ___________________. She wants to become an artist when she grows up.

15. Lawrence is afraid of ___________________ by plane.

Exercise 2

Arrange the following words in correct order to make sensible sentences.

1. house / I / holiday / spend / cleaning / my / the / .

2. satisfying / other / Helping / / people / be / can / very

3. mind / / late / The / not / did / coming / him / host
Exercise 3

There is/are mistake(s) in the following sentences. Underline the mistake(s) and rewrite the sentences in the space provided.

1. It is useless cry over spit milk.

2. Mary wants to watch TV after wash dishes.

3. Mom insisted on go with me.

4. Sharon looks forward to receive the reply from her husband.
5. Play the piano is one of Sally’s hobbies.

6. Laura is tired of explain things to her father.

7. My father is a mechanic. He enjoys fixes home appliances.

8. My classmate Tim is very good at run.

9. Johnson lost weight by quitting eaten sweets.

10. You can make better cookies by added some more butter.

11. Paul was caught for steal other people’s mobile phone in the station.