Prepositions + Gerunds

A gerund is the -ing from of a verb used as a noun. You can use a gerund as the object of a preposition.

1. **First, take the quiz below.** (It’s just for fun.)

Are you a chocoholic—a person who LOVES chocolate? Do you…

- dream about **eating** chocolate?
- look forward to **having** chocolate every day?
- have recipes for **baking** with chocolate?
- never get tired of **thinking** about chocolate?
- have to stop yourself from **eating** too much chocolate?
- sometimes blame someone for **taking** your chocolate?
- worry about **gaining** weight because you eat a lot of chocolate?

If you answered yes to most of the questions, you are a chocoholic!

2. **Read the sentences in the “chocolate quiz” again. The words that are underlined are gerunds. Notice that every gerund is the object of a preposition.**

3. **Complete each sentence below with a gerund.**

1. We don’t have time to cook tonight. Let’s order a pizza instead of ___________ dinner.

2. Tomorrow I’m going to see friends I haven’t seen for a long time. I’m looking forward to ___________ them.

3. On Saturday he’s going to meet his girlfriend’s parents for the first time. He’s nervous about ___________ them.

4. They don’t want to paint the living room. They’re really bad at ___________.
5. You’ll meet a lot of new people at the party, and you can’t remember all of their names. So don’t worry about __________________ every name.

6. I like to learn how to do new things on a computer. I’m interested in __________________ how to design a web page.

7. He lied about his age on the application. What was his reason for __________________?

8. He works part-time at a gas station, in addition to __________________ full-time at a supermarket.

9. It’s not hard for me to get up at 6 AM. I’m used to __________________ early.

10. Her friends helped her move into her new apartment. She thanked them many times for __________________ her move.

11. We were 20 minutes late for the meeting. When we arrived, we apologized for __________________ late.

12. She broke his heart when she told him she wouldn’t marry him. Many years later, she told him she was sorry for __________________ his heart.

Answers:
1. cooking OR making
2. seeing
3. meeting
4. painting
5. remembering
6. learning
7. lying
8. working
9. getting up
10. helping
11. being
12. breaking

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