

Prepositions + Gerunds

A gerund is the -ing form 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 get angry at 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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