

Summary of the Gerund (p1/3)

1. Summary of Use

- 1.1. The gerund is a **verb noun**, as the English gerund, which ends in -ing
 - 1.1.1. Reading is a doorway.
- 1.2. The gerund is a (neuter singular) genitive, dative, accusative or ablative declension of the gerundive, the fourth principle part of the Latin noun
 - 1.2.1.1. moneō, monēre, monuī, **monitus** (for the gerund, imagine **monitum**)
- 1.2.2. An important distinction between English and Latin gerunds: Latin gerunds appear **only in the oblique cases**.
- 1.2.3. Where a nominative is needed, Latin uses the infinitive
 - 1.2.3.1. Reading is a doorway: legēre porta est.
 - 1.2.3.2. The habit of reading is a doorway: mōs legendī porta est.

2. Gerund vs. Gerundive

- 2.1. Ideally, the **gerundive**, a **verbal adjective**, will agree with its corresponding noun, while the **gerund**, a **verbal noun**, remains neuter singular
 - 2.1.1. This isn't helpful when working with neuter nouns
- 2.2. Here are some examples that we can distinguish:
 - 2.2.1. He had a design of taking the city: **ratiō urbis capiendae tenuit**. (gerundive)
 - 2.2.2. He had a design of taking the city: **ratiō urbem capiendī tenuit**. (gerund)
 - 2.2.2.1. The phrase **urbis capiendae** is entirely feminine, but the phrase **urbem capiendī** sees a neuter verbal noun with a feminine accusative object
 - 2.2.2.2. Here, the gerundive is preferred
- 2.3. Here's a more challenging example:
 - 2.3.1. I occupied myself in the forum, the Curia and the defense of my friends: **in forō, in cūriā, in amīcōrum perīculīs prōpulsandīs**
 - 2.3.2. First, note that gerunds and gerundives may be placed in apposition to nouns
 - 2.3.3. Second, see that **perīculum** is neuter (dative or ablative), but **prōpellō** takes an accusative direct object
 - 2.3.3.1. Therefore, **prōpulsandīs** must be agreeing with **perīculīs**, and this must be a gerundive construction
 - 2.3.3.2. The (more awkward) gerund equivalent: **in amīcōrum perīcula prōpulsandīs**
- 2.4. A gerund with a direct object is rare, so don't let it worry you

The Essential AG: §501-503

Famous Phrase: **tenet insānābile multōs scrībendī cacoethes**
(the insatiable itch of writing grips many) -Juvenal, *Saturās*, 7.51