

The -ing Form - Use

When do we use the -ing verb form in English?

Note: This is also called the **verb + -ing form** and the **verb-ing form**.

The -ing form is used for present participles and gerunds.

1. The Present Participle

The present participle is the -ing form of a verb when it is used:

1) as an adjective

For example:

- The movie was **interesting**.
- It's a **boring** book.
- Watch out for **moving** vehicles.

2) in continuous tenses (also called progressive tenses)

For example:

- I'm **reading**.
- She was **working**.
- It has been **raining**.

3) in participle clauses

A participle clause is a shorter clause that uses the present participle, past participle or present perfect participle to give extra information about the subject in the main clause.

For example:

- **Walking** through the park, Frank saw a kangaroo.
- I stood there **waiting** for an answer.
- The children ran inside **laughing** loudly.

2. The Gerund

The gerund is the -ing form of a verb when it is used as a noun.

For example:

- **Swimming** is good exercise.
- They love **reading**.
- She is good at **cooking**.

Note: A **gerund phrase** is a phrase with a gerund that is used as one noun.

For example:

- **Swimming in the ocean** is good exercise.
- They love **reading crime novels**.
- She is good at **cooking curries**.
- **Learning English** takes time.