



Teaching Gerunds Versus Infinitives Inductively

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More Information

Here are more links to instructor and author David Kehe's work on gerunds versus infinitives.

Gerund Inductive Exercises

<https://commonsense-esl.com/2018/12/11/teaching-gerunds-a-discussion-from-lincs/>

On his website, Kehe shares his discussion from the LINC network regarding gerunds and infinitives. You'll see full versions of the exercise samples we share on page 13.

Gerunds and Participles

<https://commonsenseesl.files.wordpress.com/2018/12/gerunds-vs-participles-exercises.pdf>

This is a link to two of Kehe's worksheets.

Inductive Exercises

<https://commonsense-esl.com/category/inductive-approach-exercises/>

In this blog post, read more from Kehe about why inductive exercises can help students learn writing and grammar.

The Grammar Review Book and Write After Input

http://www.prolinguaassociates.com/Grammar_Review_Book/

http://www.prolinguaassociates.com/Write_After_Input/index.html

The first link provides ordering information for *The Grammar Review Book* from Kehe and Peggy Dustin Kehe. The second book, also by the Kehes, has more inductive grammar and writing exercises.

Purpose

To help students learn inductively how to use gerunds versus infinitives in writing tasks.

Rationale

A traditional approach to teaching grammar typically involves presenting a grammar rule followed by exercises in which students try to apply it. For many students, this traditional approach to teaching grammar concepts like gerunds and infinitives has not been effective. They may become proficient in doing grammar exercises but remain unable to apply the concepts to writing assignments. By contrast, in an inductive approach, students start by interacting with some examples and then formulate the rule. After having arrived at the rule, they are much better able to internalize it and apply it in a meaningful way when doing follow-up exercises and in writing tasks.

Here are a few exercises that students can use to learn gerunds versus infinitives inductively.

The Basic Activity

1. Make copies of page 13 for all students.
2. The first exercise (page 13) involves sample sentences that include the grammar concept. Have students interact with these sentences and analyze their grammatical aspects.
3. Drawing on their analysis of the sample sentences, the next exercise leads students to formulate the rule for how to use the grammar concept.
4. The students apply this rule to a variety of exercises, including listening and writing tasks, to help them internalize it.

**(Script for Exercise 5 on page 13)*

1. In summer, we enjoy swimming.
2. Watching the rain is a nice thing to do.
3. I love babies, but their crying keeps me awake at night.

Sample Inductive Exercises to Introduce Gerunds to Students

Exercise 1: Circle the nouns. Ignore pronouns such as *he*. There are four nouns, including *candy*.

1. He likes candy.
2. He likes eating.
3. We enjoy music.
4. We enjoy singing.

Exercise 2: Choose the correct answers.

1. In Exercise 1, the verb *-ing* forms (*eating and singing*) are _____.
a) nouns b) verbs c) prepositions
2. When an *-ing* verb (*eating, singing, etc.*) is a noun, it is called a _____.
a) participle b) verb c) gerund

Exercise 3:

1. Look at each pair of sentences below the box.
2. In Sentence a, write a regular noun from the box in the blank to complete the sentence.
3. In Sentence b write a gerund from the box in the blank to complete the sentence.

Regular nouns:	countries	his car	voice
	music	school	computer
Gerunds:	shouting	fixing	studying
	driving	traveling	playing

1. a) Tom stopped _____
b) Tom stopped _____
2. a) My hobby is _____
b) My hobby is _____ guitar.

Exercise 4: Look at the sentences. Answer the question after each.

1. Fishing is a good hobby.
Is the word *fishing* a noun or verb? _____
2. My brother is fishing in the river now.
Is the word *fishing* a noun or verb? _____

Exercise 5:

1. Write the sentences that your teacher reads to you.*
2. Circle the gerunds in the sentences.

Exercise 6:

1. Write two sentences that start with a gerund.
2. Write two sentences about things that you don't like. Use a gerund in each sentence.
3. Write two sentences about things that you enjoy doing. Use a gerund in each sentence.

* Teachers: see script on page 12.