ESL 2B Level Notes: The Gerund

What is a Gerund?

A gerund is a verb form that ends in **-ing** and functions as a noun in a sentence. It can be used in various ways, such as the subject of a sentence, the object of a verb, or the object of a preposition.

Uses of the Gerund

1. Gerunds as Subjects

Gerunds can act as the subject of a sentence.

Example: - **Swimming** is my favorite sport.

In this example, "swimming" is the subject of the sentence.

2. Gerunds as Objects

Gerunds can also function as the object of a verb.

Example: - I enjoy **reading** books.

Here, "reading" is the object of the verb "enjoy."

3. Gerunds after Prepositions

Gerunds are used after prepositions.

Example: - She is interested in **learning** new languages.

In this case, "learning" follows the preposition "in."

4. Gerunds after Certain Verbs

Some verbs are followed directly by gerunds.

Examples: - I can't stand **waiting** in long lines. - They suggested **going** to the museum.

5. Gerunds in Compound Nouns

Gerunds can also be part of compound nouns.

Example: - I bought a **swimming suit** for my vacation.

Here, "swimming" describes the type of suit.

Summary

- A gerund is a verb form ending in **-ing** that acts like a noun.
- Gerunds can be used as subjects, objects, after prepositions, following certain verbs, and in compound nouns.
- Understanding how to use gerunds will enhance your English speaking and writing skills!