

LESSON 150

847 Common uses of the gerund

Three common uses of the gerund are:

- 1) as a subject in a sentence: for example, "Jogging keeps me fit";
- 2) after a preposition: for example, "She is good at teaching children";
- 3) after certain verbs: for example, "He regrets selling his house".

Tell me three common uses of the gerund, please.

Three common ... are as a subject in a sentence, after a preposition, and after certain verbs

Give me an example of each, please.

Swimming can be fun.
I'm fed up with listening to that song all day. She enjoys dancing.

treat

treatment

shock

Do some people treat their pets like members of the family?

Yes, some people...

Do you know how to treat someone for shock, or someone who's fainted?

Yes, I know ... – No, I don't know ...

What do you think's the best treatment for a common cold?

I think the best treatment ... is ...

allowance

make allowance

Do you think it's better to give children a fixed weekly allowance, or give them money little by little as they need it?

I think it's better to ...

- 848 When we decide how much time we need to travel from one place to another, should we always make allowances for the possibility of traffic jams or public transport problems? Yes, when we ..., we should always ...

beg

forgive

forgiveness

pardon

I beg your pardon

Are you against people begging in the streets?

Yes, I'm against ... ~
No, I'm not against ...

On what kind of occasions do people beg for forgiveness?

The kind of occasions ... are when
they have done something seriously wrong

Do you believe people should always be forgiven for the things they do wrong?

Yes, I believe .. ~ No, I don't believe ...

When we have not quite heard what someone has said, we say "I beg your pardon?" or just "Pardon?", or "Sorry?".

When we have not quite heard what someone has just said, what do we say?

When we have not ..., we say
"I beg your pardon?" or just "Pardon?", or "Sorry?"

disease

contagious

influenza (flu)

typhoid

A disease is an illness, usually one that has a specific cause. Some diseases are contagious, meaning that they can be passed from person to person, like influenza (flu) and typhoid.

Tell me the names of some common contagious diseases, please.

Some common contagious diseases are ...

849 **fire**

Have you ever fired a real gun?

Yes, I've fired ... ~
No, I've never fired ...

room

solution

Do you think there is, and always will be, enough room in the world for everybody?

Yes, I think ... ~ No, I don't think ...

If not, what do you think's the best solution to the problem?

I think the best solution ...

jet

Name someone who you reckon probably owns a private jet.

I reckon ... probably ...

sharp

Do you think a person needs a sharp mind to work as a detective?

Yes, I think... ~ No, I don't think ...

What do we mean by a sharp pain?

By a sharp pain, we mean a severe pain that starts suddenly

process

raw

Do you regard buying products online as a simple or complicated process?

I regard ... as a ... process

850 What do we mean by raw materials?

By raw materials, we mean materials in their natural or unprocessed state

Give me some examples, please.

coal, wood, cotton etc.

Do you ever eat raw meat or vegetables?

Yes, I sometimes ... ~
No, I never ...

What do we mean by processed food?

By processed food, we mean food that has been changed from its raw or natural state in order to preserve it or make it safer to eat

Give me some examples, please.

frozen vegetables, biscuits etc.

sample

Why might a baker offer a customer a free sample of a particular type of bread?

A baker might ... to let the customer try it before deciding to buy a whole loaf

undergraduate

graduate

What's an undergraduate?

An undergraduate is a university student who has not finished their degree yet

And what do we call somebody who has finished their degree successfully? We call ... a graduate

vain

in vain

Who is the vainest person you know? ... is the vainest person I know

What does the expression "in vain" mean? The expression "in vain" means "failing to produce a good result"

851 Give me an example, please. The doctors struggled in vain to save the man

as long as (so long as)

Is it good for the health to drink red wine, as long as we don't drink too much? Yes, it's good for ... as long as ...

turn

turn to

turn out to be

badly

traffic lights

misjudge

In some shops, do customers have to take tickets to show whose turn it is to be served? Yes, in some shops, customers have to ...

In what order do traffic lights turn from stop to go; that is, in what order do the colours change? Traffic lights turn from stop to go by changing ...

Who do you turn to when you're in trouble or need help badly? I turn to ... when I'm ...

Do you find you often misjudge people when you meet them for the first time (for example, you might think they're honest and they turn out to be dishonest)? Yes, I find I often ... ~ No, I don't find I often ...

queue

jump the queue

What would you do if you were queuing in a shop and you noticed someone jump the queue in front of you? If I was queuing ..., I'd ...

What's the contrary of "to read to oneself"?

The contrary ...
is "to read aloud" ...

spot

If a small spot of coffee fell on your clothes at work, how could you clean it off?

If a small ..., I could ... by ...

What kind of spot do you prefer for a picnic?

I prefer a quiet spot
by the sea (or in a park etc.) for a picnic

do one's best

Do you always try to do your best in everything you do?

Yes, I always
try to ... – No, I don't always try to ...



Do Revision Exercise 68