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## THE GERUND

Read this sentence.

Reading is his favourite pastime.

The word reading is formed from the Verb read, by adding ing. We also see that it is here used as the Subject of a verb, and hence does the work of a Noun. It is, therefore, a Verb-Noun, and is called a Gerund.

Further examples of Gerund:

1. Playing cards is not allowed here.
- 2 I like reading poetry.
3. He is fond of hoarding money.

In sentence 1, the Gerund, like a noun, is the subject of a verb, but, like a verb, it also takes an object, thus clearly showing that it has also the force of a verb. In sentence 2, the Gerund, like a noun, is the object of a verb but, like a verb, it also takes an object, thus clearly showing that

it has also the force of a verb. In sentence 3, the Gerund, like a noun, is governed by a preposition, but, like a verb, it also takes an object. It will be noticed that the Infinitive and the Gerund are alike in being used as Nouns, while still retaining the power that a Verb has of governing another noun or pronoun in the objective case.

Def.-A Gerund is that form of the verb which ends in -ing, and has the force of a Noun and a Verb.