

PRACTICE WITH GERUNDS

This practice sheet supports study of the novel *Jurassic Park* and is aligned with Indiana Standard 9.6.1.

A **gerund** is a verb form that ends in *-ing* and acts as a noun. Don't confuse it with a verb phrase in progressive tense or with a present participle, which also ends in *-ing* but acts as an adjective.

Examples:

Gerund: *Arguing* with John Hammond was never a good idea. (*Arguing* is the subject of the sentence -- it's a noun.)

Verb phrase: Ian Malcolm *was arguing* with John Hammond because he had a different opinion. (*Was arguing* is a verb.)

Participle: Ian Malcolm, *arguing with John Hammond*, said the theme park would never be safe.
(*Arguing* is an adjective modifying *Ian Malcolm*.)

Directions: Underline the gerund. Tell its role in the sentence (subject, direct object, indirect object, object of a preposition, predicate nominative or complement, appositive).

1. Feeding the dinosaurs was a huge job.
2. Hunting wild animals was Muldoon's specialty.
3. Dennis Nedry's job was computer programming.
4. One velociraptor trait was pack hunting.
5. Packs of raptors were capable of bringing down animals that weighed a thousand pounds.
6. John Hammond was using Jurassic Park for two purposes: entertaining visitors and making money.
7. Producing and caring for cloned reptiles at the park was keeping Dr. Wu busy.
8. Nedry wasn't telling anyone about stealing embryos.
9. Watching the animals with the motion detectors and video monitors was leading the team into a false sense of security.
10. The park was using computers for counting the animals.
11. Smiling happily, Lex often asked people about playing pickle.
12. Tim remembered reading Dr. Grant's exciting book about dinosaurs.
13. Malcolm used forecasting the weather as an interesting example of chaos theory.
14. Gennaro's compelling goal of making money sometimes affected his judgement.
15. Businessmen like Hammond, working unethically, are demonstrating the potential dangers of technological advances like cloning in our modern world.

Writing: Write a paragraph about cloning or another scientific/technological development. Use at least five gerunds and underline them.

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