

## GERUND AND GERUNDIVE

### I. The Gerund

The Gerund is a verbal *noun*, always *active* in force. The infinitive of the verbs supplies the nominative case:

*Legere est difficile* = To read is difficult (reading is difficult)

The other cases are formed by adding *-nd-* to the present stem of the verb (*-iend-* for 3rd conjugation I-stems and all 4th conjugation verbs), plus the neuter singular endings of the second declension. The Gerund has no plural.

#### A. Declension of Gerund:

(Nom. <i>legere</i> reading)		
Gen.	<i>legendi</i>	of reading
Dat.	<i>legendo</i>	to/for reading
Acc.	<i>legendum</i>	reading
Abl.	<i>legendo</i>	from/with/in/by reading

**B. Gerund as simple noun:** The Gerund functions in grammatical cases like any other noun; but it retains its verbal force and may control a direct object or be modified by an adverb:

<i>Cupidus legendi est.</i>	He is desirous of reading.	Obj. Gen.
<i>Legendo discimus.</i>	We learn by (means of) reading.	Abl. of Means
<i>Regi libenter parendo* fortiores fietus.</i>	By obeying the king willingly, we shall become stronger.	Abl. of Means

\* Note that verbs governing the dative will do so in the gerund form as well.

#### C. Gerund with *ad* to express purpose:

*Ad* + the gerund will express purpose:

*Ad legendum venit.* He comes for the purpose of reading (to read).  
But where a direct object is used, the gerundive is preferred.

#### D. Gerund with *causa* to express purpose:

The genitive of the gerund followed by *causa* will express purpose:

*Legendi causa venit.* He comes for the sake of reading (to read).  
But where a direct object is used, the gerundive is preferred.

## II. The Gerundive (Future Passive Participle)

The Gerundive is a verbal *adjective* and is always *passive* in force. It is formed by adding *-ndus, -a, -um* (*-iendus, -a, -um* with I-stems and 4th conjugation verbs) to the stem of the verb. It declines like a 1st and 2nd declension adjective.

### A. Gerundive as simple adjective:

The Gerundive carries a notion of necessity, obligation or propriety and can be used (like any adjective) in simple agreement with its noun:

<i>Libros legendos habeo.</i>	I have books having to be read (that must be/should be read).
<i>Fortis et laudandus vir est.</i>	He is a brave man and worthy to be praised.
<i>Iniuria et non ferenda facta est.</i>	An injury not to be borne has been done.

### B. Gerundive with Direct Object:

The Gerundive is always preferred over the Gerund where a direct object in the accusative case is involved:

<i>Libris legendis discimus.</i>	We learn by books being read (by reading books).
<i>Cupidus librorum legendorum est.</i>	He is desirous of books being read (of reading books).

### C. Gerundive with *ad* + acc. and gen. + *causa* to express purpose:

The Gerundive (like the Gerund) may be used with *ad* + acc. or gen. + *causa* to express purpose. This is the regular construction where a Direct Object is involved.

<i>Librorum legendorum causa venit.</i>	He comes for the sake of books being read (to read books).
<i>Ad libros legendos venit.</i>	He comes for the purpose of books being read (to read books).

### D. The Passive Periphrastic Conjugation:

Finally, the gerundive is used with *sum* in the Future Passive Periphrastic Conjugation. Here, also, there is always a notion of necessity, obligation, or propriety. The construction is passive; and the gerundive will agree (number, case, and gender) with the subject of the sentence. Since the gerundive here functions in a verbal setting, agreeing with the subject of the sentence, the case will always be nominative (or accusative in indirect speech).

<i>Carthago delenda est.</i>	Carthage must (should) be destroyed.
<i>Nautae videndi sunt.</i>	The sailors must be seen.

### Dative of Agent with Passive Periphrastic:

If the agent of the action is expressed, the dative case is used:

<i>Carthago nobis delenda est.</i>	Carthage must be destroyed by us.
<i>Nautae videndi sunt tibi.</i>	The sailors must be seen by you.