



SPANISH TABLE

Gerunds

When to use gerunds



Use	Example	Translation
Progressive tenses	<i>Los estudiantes están estudiando en la biblioteca.</i>	The students are studying in the library.
Describes the action of the verb it accompanies	Manner: <i>Entró gritando.</i>	He entered screaming.
	Cause: <i>Siendo directora de la institución, logró muchos cambios.</i>	Being the institution's director, she accomplished many changes.
	Condition: <i>Aun existiendo el correo electrónico, Luisa prefiere mandar cartas.</i>	Even though email exists, Luisa prefers to send letters.
Purpose with verbs of communication	<i>Nos escribió diciendo lo que iba a hacer.</i>	He wrote us telling us what he was going to do.
Indicates two actions happening at the same time	<i>Mi hermano siempre trabaja escuchando la radio.</i>	My brother works while listening to the radio.
Indicates location	<i>El puesto está saliendo a la derecha.</i>	The stand is outside and to the right.
After verbs of seeing and hearing (both the infinitive and the gerund can be used with these verbs)	<i>Veo a los niños jugar/jugando.</i>	I see the kids play/playing.
After verbs such as: <i>llevar</i> [to be doing something], <i>quedar</i> [to continue to do something], <i>venir</i> [to keep on] and <i>descubrir</i> , <i>pillar</i> , <i>encontrar</i> , <i>hallar</i> , <i>agarrar</i> [to walk in on/to catch someone red-handed]	<i>Luis lleva dos años tratando de aprender alemán. Vienes pidiéndome lo mismo desde hace un mes. Se quedó mirando sus zapatos toda la noche. Descubrí al perro robándose las galletas.</i>	Luis has been trying to learn German for two years. You have been asking me to do the same thing for a month. He stared at his shoes all night. I caught the dog stealing the cookies.



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When NOT to use gerunds

Use	Example	Translation
After a preposition	<i>Revisa tus mensajes antes de salir.</i>	Check your messages before leaving .
As an adjective	<i>¡Qué libro más aburrido!</i>	What a boring book!
As a noun	<i>Caminar todos los días es bueno para la salud.</i>	Walking everyday is healthy.
English expressions that do not translate using present participles	"sleeping bag" (<i>saco de dormir</i>), "changing room" (<i>probador</i>), "fishing pole" (<i>caña de pescar</i>), "dining room" (<i>comedor</i>), "hiking poles/boots" (<i>bastón/botas de senderismo</i>) "shopping list" (<i>lista de las compras</i>), "running shoes" (<i>tenis/zapatos de correr</i>), "tracking number or code" (<i>número/código de rastreo</i>), "swimming suit" (<i>traje de baño/bañador</i>), "waiting list" (<i>lista de espera</i>), etc.	

